ACROSS / A14

GMA to attend Mass for Bong Pineda's wife, rally for Lito Lapid

WORLD / A20

Blasts, fire kill 66 in India-Pakistan train; 60 die in Baghdad bombing

NEWS/ A2

Bishops tell President Arroyo to make Melo Commission report public

METRO / A17

2 inmates of Caloocan City jail shot dead by another prisoner

Cold mornings gone and hot days are here

TAGO NYO NA ANG KUMOT, TAG-INIT NA!!!

By TJ Burgonio

THE BONE-CHILLING mornings are gone. Expect crowds to hit the beaches soon.

Weather bureau officials yesterday predicted summer to set in about two

COLD MORNINGS/ A13

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Tuesday, February 20, 2007 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 74 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

American Marine dies of heart attack in Jolo

By Julie S. Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A 20-YEAR-OLD AMERICAN Marine died after suffering cardiac arrest in Jolo, Sulu, last week as the United States prepared for joint military exercises aimed at isolating al-Qaida-linked militants, US officials reported yesterday.

AMERICAN/ A13

Nursing groups form task force to plead case in US

By Margaux C. Ortiz
and Leila B. Salaverria

NURSING GROUPS IN THE COUNTRY yesterday formed a task force to appeal the decision of a US commission requiring those who passed the June 2006 nursing licensure exam to retake two tests tainted by leakage so that they could be issued occupational visas in the United States.

Leonor Rosero, chair of the Professional Regulation Commission, said the members of the task force would leave on Feb. 26 for Philadelphia, where the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools is based.

"We have agreed to appeal to the CGFNS in behalf of the Filipino nurses who passed the June licensure examinations," Rosero said at a press conference at the Philippine Nursing Association (PNA) office in Manila.

Rosero said she would head the delegation, which the PRC chief said was independent of the group directed by President Macapagal-Arroyo last week to ask the CGFNS to reconsider its decision.

Dr. Remigia Nathanielz, president of the Association of Deans of Philippine Colleges of Nursing, and Dr. Leah Primitiva Samaco-Paquiz, PNA president, are part of the task force.

"We would show the CGFNS officials how the examination results were computed, together with the decision of the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court on the issue," Rosero said.

NURSES/ A6

Terror, Pagcor bills OKd

Majority in House outmuscles opposition

By Norman Bordadora
and Christian Esguerra

IN A SPECIAL SESSION clouded by the news of a lawmaker's death in a car crash, Congress last night ratified a controversial antiterror bill which its backers say is necessary to combat terrorists linked to Osama bin Laden.

The ratification came by way of approval by the House of Representatives of the Senate-amended bill—called the "Human Security Act of 2007"—which opponents had warned might be used to repress civil liberties.

In a more controversial move, the House nakedly asserted the power of the majority, swept away all opposition objections and also ratified a measure extending for 25 years the franchise of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor).

Opponents of the measure had claimed its passage might be used by the administration to avail itself of Pagcor funds for the May elections.

The two bills, ratified by voice vote, had been previously approved by the congressional bicameral conference committee. Now, they need only the signature of President Macapagal-Arroyo to become laws.

The House session was shrouded by gloom after it opened when news arrived that Valenzuela Rep. Antonio Serapio Jr. had died after his car collided with a passenger bus on the Gapan-Olongapo Road in Cabiao town. *(See story on this page.)*

Serapio was on his way to the session

TERROR/ A4

RELOAD HERE

NEIGHBORS carry the body of slain newsman Hernani Pastolero (inset) outside his house in Sultan Kudarat Monday. AFP

Another journalist shot dead

By Edwin O. Fernandez
and Charlie C. Señase
Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—A GUNMAN WEARING a baseball cap shot Hernani Pastolero twice in the back of the head, killing the editor of the weekly Lightning Courier as he sipped coffee in front of his house in Sultan Kudarat, Shariff Kabunsuan, at 6:20 a.m. yesterday, police reported.

Pastolero, 64, was the first journalist killed this year, the 50th since Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo became President in 2001 and the 110th since the Philippines regained democracy with the ouster of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

Only a handful of the killings have been solved. Two police officers have been convicted of the killing of two journalists in Mindanao.

"He was killed instantly," said Ismael Mama, the town's police chief. "We're still trying to establish the motive for the killing because Pastolero was not known to be a very hard-hitting journalist. We're trying to establish if he had some enemies."

The unidentified gunman approached Pastolero from behind and opened fire twice with a .45-cal. pistol then walked away as the journalist slumped on the pavement which doubled as a basketball court.

Witnesses saw the attacker hurriedly leaving still holding his gun. They described him as slim, about 5'6" tall and dark-skinned.

Pastolero's daughter, Eva Marie, said the journalist had no known enemies. She said her father had never mentioned receiving death threats.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) condemned Pastolero's murder, describing it as the "latest atrocity" against the media in the Philippines, tagged by international news

ANOTHER/ A8

GO drops Makati, goes to San Juan

By Norman Bordadora

A DAY AFTER CALLING FOR DEposed President Joseph Estrada to be allowed to campaign for the Genuine Opposition, the anti-Arroyo senatorial slate yesterday said that it was moving its proclamation rally to San Juan, Estrada's hometown.

The decision to transfer the GO proclamation rally on Feb. 24 from Makati City to San Juan was made during Estrada's meeting with opposition candidates during his daytime pass from his estate in Tanay, Rizal, where he remains detained while awaiting the verdict in his

GO DROPS/ A4

Valenzuela solon dies in car crash

By Anselmo Roque]
Inquirer Central Luzon

CABANATUAN CITY—A METRO Manila lawmaker on his way to attend a special session of Congress was killed yesterday when his car collided with a passenger bus in Cabiao, Nueva Ecija, police said.

Rep. Antonio M. Serapio, 69, of the second district of Valenzuela City, was driving his Honda CRV when the collision with a Cabanatuan-bound Sierra Madre

VALENZUELA/ A4

WHEN THE STATE IS THE TERRORIST

'Soldier's uniform a totem symbol of fear'

By Phoebe Zoe Sanchez
and Jamir Niño Ocampo

(Second of two parts)

(Editor's note: Sanchez is an assistant professor at the University of the Philippines Visayas working on her Ph.D. in Sociology; Ocampo is with the UP School of Economics. The two were invited by Taripnon, an ecology group in the Cagayan Valley, to study the impact of the military presence as a form of terrorism. Here are their findings.)

iTEAM *Report*
Fernando del Mundo
Chief

THE MURDER OF NELSON Asucena, 19, on Dec. 13, 2006, allegedly by a group headed by Army Lt. Marcelo Pascua, came in the midst of a military buildup in Cagayan province.

Operation Bantay Laya, the five-year counterinsurgency program of President Macapagal-Arroyo, began in 2002 but the troop deployment in the province started only in the second half of last year, according to military officials who briefed a fact-finding mission to the area last month.

Under the cover of Task Force Amiya, the 5th Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army sent the 53rd Division Reconnaissance Company to eastern Cagayan and the 51st Reconnaissance Company to the western part of the province.

In the Zinundungan region alone, where San Juan is located, 89 mobile soldiers of Alpha Company of the 21st Infantry Battalion (IB) were fielded under Pascua's command. Within a few months, incidents of killings in the area increased sharply.

Asucena's murder, based on sworn statements and inter-

SOLDIER'S/ A8

NESTOR ASUCENA'S father Hipolito, wife Marifel and daughter Lyka fear the military presence in their village. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Banks to curb financial bloodline to terrorists

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT WILL SOON mobilize Philippine banks, now already at the forefront of a global crusade against dirty money, to play a bigger role in curbing the financial bloodline of terrorism.

For the government's Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), the legislation of an antiterrorism law will expand the scope of its authority to inquire into or examine a suspicious bank deposit or investment and freeze the assets upon the orders

BANKS/ A8

EZ2 7 20 | FOUR DIGIT 4 4 1 5

Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening
8 1 7 | 0 7 7
(All in exact order)

MEGALOTTO 6/45
1 5 23 24 32 41
P26,224,138.80

Second FrontPage

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/nation
Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern sections of Central and Southern Luzon, Eastern Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/02/19/07 SOURCE PAGASA

CBCP to GMA: Make Melo report public

By Nikko Dizon and Leila B. Salaverria

THE INFLUENTIAL CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONference of the Philippines yesterday called on the Arroyo administration to make public the Melo Commission report for the benefit of the victims' families.

"I think the (Melo report) should be made public in deference or in sympathy with the families of the victims," Jaro, Iloilo, Archbishop and CBCP president Angel Lagdameo said yesterday over Radio Veritas.

Unless they see a copy of the commission's report, the victims' families are apparently left "groping in the dark," Lagdameo said. "The families would also like to know the state of the investigation."

Failing to get any information from the government, it was hoped that Philip Alston, the United Nations special investigator on human rights abuses, would be able to shed light on the extrajudicial killings.

Alston, UN High Commission on Human Rights Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial killings, was due to hold a briefing on his initial findings today. He has, however, postponed the briefing until Wednesday.

The government invited Alston to make an independent survey amid allegations that it was behind hundreds of political killings. During his 10 days in the country, he will interview activists, government officials and scores of relatives of victims of extrajudicial killings.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Pangasinan Archbishop Oscar Cruz said the government should release the Melo Commission report simply because "extrajudicial killings is of public concern."

Cruz pointed out that since the Melo Commission was "handled and operated using public funds" to conduct its investigation, the public has the right to know the results.

"Keeping it a secret, by not furnishing the media a copy of the report, is offensive to public sensitivity," Cruz said when reached by phone.

He added: "It is a slap, especially to the people whose relatives and friends have been killed. For all intents and purposes, keeping the Melo report confidential is ridiculous."

Cruz also expressed disappointment the Arroyo administration had "acquired the habit of keeping reports a secret."

He cited the Mayuga report, which investigated the February coup attempt.

The CBCP had also asked the government to reveal the results of the investigation.

"To me, it's like a cloak and dagger management of public information. I don't know if there's a law that keeps documents like this from being made public," he said.

For Cruz, the government-initiated Melo and Mayuga investigations were mere "propaganda" efforts by the government to show that it was doing something in response to the public outrage.

Lagdameo also said during his interview on Radio Veritas that Butuan Bishop Juan de Dios Pueblos had resigned from the Melo Commission.

"(He) said it had gone beyond the terms which had been imposed on him and he had imposed on himself, and he really expected that the work had been completed," Lagdameo said without elaborating.

Meanwhile, Chief Justice Reynato Puno yesterday said the Supreme Court was clarifying the definition of political killings so that it would not be "too general" and would not focus on one kind of killing.

"One problematic area is the definition of what is a political crime. The definition cannot be too general or all-encompassing, so we are refining the concept," Puno told reporters. "We will try our best to arrive at a reasonable definition because we want to fast-track the creation of these special courts." *With an AFP report*

Gov't has no proof in killings, say Reds

By TJ Burgonio

THE GOVERNMENT LACKS evidence in most of the 23 cases of killings of Leftist militant leaders and activists, including former rebel leader Sotero Llamas, which it had blamed on internal purges by the communist New People's Army.

This was one of the key findings of the communist-led National Democratic Front of the Philippines monitoring committee, which undertook a comparative study of the government information sheets on the cases.

The findings, released yesterday, could further set back the resumption of talks aimed at ending the three-decade-old insurgency, NDFP officials based in the Netherlands said.

Left-wing militant groups had blamed government security forces and paramilitary troops for the killings, which have sparked condemnation from human rights groups around the world and prompted the administration to create an independent commission to inquire into the cases.

"An overwhelming number of the complaints filed against the NDFP contain bare, naked, unsubstantiated and sweeping allegations," Edre Olalia, legal consultant of the NDFP monitoring committee, told reporters in a briefing, quoting from the findings.

"The intent is not only to belittle the case but also to put the blame on the victims themselves for their own deaths."

The government has filed complaints against the NDFP in connection with the 23 cases, alleging that some of the activists were liquidated by NPA rebels as part of its purges to cleanse its ranks of spies.

The most prominent was the case of Llamas, 55, former member of the Communist Party of the Philippines' Central Committee, who was gunned down while being driven home in Tabaco City, Albay, on May 29, 2006.

Human rights groups filed complaints against the government in connection with 22 of the 23 cases, ahead of the filing by the government.

Olalia said there was "enough basis to put the burden of responsibility" on the government for the extrajudicial killings."

Relatives of some victims of extrajudicial killings allegedly ordered by some party-list representatives associated with communist groups are seeking the cancellation of the registration of three party-list groups and the disqualification of their representatives.

They said in a press statement they were asking the Commission on Elections to cancel the registration of Bayan Muna, Anakpawis and Gabriela and disqualify Reps. Satur Ocampo, Liza Maza, Teodoro Casiño and Rafael Mariano for their alleged involvement in the murders of Carlito Bayudang, Danilo Felipe and Jimmy Peralta, all supporters of rival party-list group Akbayan.

'Thou shall not kill' posters sprout in Abra

By Frank Cimatu
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BANGUED, ABRA—HUNDREDS of bond paper-sized flyers have been pasted on walls and electric posts in this capital town repeating the Biblical commandment: Thou shall not kill.

The flyers carry beside the message the photographs of five political leaders from this province, who were assassinated including Abra Rep. Luis "Chito" Bersamin, who was gunned down on Dec. 16 last year outside a church in Quezon City.

The others were Mayors Marc Ysrael Bernos of La Paz, Clarence Benwaren of Tineg and Jose Segundo of Tubo and Board Member James Bersamin.

All were murdered, apparently in politics-related violence, in the past five years.

The injunction, "Thou shall not kill," was emblazoned on the shirts worn by Eustaquio "Kit" Bersamin and some Abra mayors when they were sworn in as members of the administration party Kampi last month.

Kit Bersamin, the younger brother of the slain lawmaker, plans to run for governor against incumbent Gov. Vicente Valera, the main suspect in the murder of Bersamin and his bodyguard, Adelfo Ortega.

A businessman, Kit Bersamin was supposed to run for mayor of Peñarubia before his brother's murder.

Bangued Mayor Ma. Zita Valera, the governor's wife, is set to run for the province's lone congressional seat. The Bersamin camp has yet to decide on who to field against her.

In response to the flyers, Valera streamers scream about the turnaround of the suspect who had first tagged the governor as the one who bankrolled the killings.

At the entrance to the street near the provincial capitol are streamers of Valera proclaiming his innocence, calling attention to the retraction of former Army Sgt. Rufino Panday, who confessed on Dec. 19 that he had served as the lookout during the murder of Bersamin.

ASIA INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS, INC.
"Your Best Source of Quality Machines in Asia"
Trucks & Equipment
AiA
SUPER MEGA 4-DAY PUBLIC AUCTION
over 2,500 units to be sold!
AUCTION DATES: FEB. 21, 22, 23, 24, 2007
(Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday)
Sale starts at 8:00 a.m.
Awarded as Philippines' #1 USED TRUCK DEALER
AUCTION STARTS TOMORROW!!
AUCTION STYLE: PARADE
INSPECTION DATES: FEB. 17, 18, 19, 20, 2007
(Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday)
UPGRADED QUALITY UNITS AND LATE MODEL TRUCKS
149 - EXCAVATORS — 1 of 14 KOMATSU PC200-5
14 - MOTOR GRADERS — 3.0T HRS ONLY — 1 of 2 KOMATSU GD405A-2
21 - ROLLERS — SAKAI R2S STEEL WHEEL ROLLER
54 - TANKER TRUCKS — 1 of 9 HINO LPG TANKER-19.2KL
24 - 4TONS CARGO TRUCKS — 1 of 19 ISUZU FWD CARGO TRUCK (Late Model)
ISUZU ELF BACKHOE TRUCK
44 - 2TONS MINI DUMPS — 1 of 25 ISUZU NKR MINI DUMP (Late Model)
29 - 2TONS REEFER VANS — 1 of 11 ISUZU NKR REEFER VAN (Late Model)
TOYOTA GRANVIA
JOIN OUR AUCTION AND EXPERIENCE THE AIA ADVANTAGE!
Inquire & Register Online Via: www.asia-intl-auctioneers.com
Lower Mau Camp, Argonaut Hi-way, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Philippines
Tel.: +63(47) 252-3333 Fax: +63(47) 252-6840 / +63(47) 252-1441 Email: aiainc@subictel.com
Trucks & Equipment Financing Available Thru ORIX METRO

'Twas human error that let lawmaker's bag through, says Naia security chief

By Tarra Quismundo

AIRPORT SECURITY OFFICIALS YESTERDAY blamed people, not equipment, for the security breach at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Centennial Terminal on Friday night, where a lawmaker was caught carrying bullets on his way to board a US-bound plane.

Airport security chief Angel Atutubo said yesterday that human error allowed Laguna Rep. Danton Bueser (3rd District) to pass through Naia Terminal 2's first two X-ray machines with 20 bullets and a pistol magazine in his bag undetected.

Redundancy check

Bueser was intercepted at the redundancy check, the third X-ray machine, at the Centennial Terminal at 9:22 p.m. while he was about to board Philippine Airlines Flight PR 114 to San Francisco.

He said the caliber-380 bullets were planted in his bag while he was waiting for the final boarding call, pointing out that the two earlier X-rays did not detect any bullets in his hand-carried bag.

But Atutubo said nobody in the airport could have done such a thing.

Importance

"You know how we Filipinos regard congressmen and other VIPs, we give them importance that's why sometimes, personnel do not notice (irregularities)... That's what we will correct and we have already spoken with our security personnel to concentrate, be extra vigilant in doing their jobs," said Atutubo.

To prove his point, Atutubo supervised a reenactment of the three X-ray checks that Bueser, like any passenger, underwent when he was apprehended.

During the walk-through, airport officials used a shoulder bag where 20 live bullets and a pistol magazine were placed. Sure enough, screeners readily detected them in all the machines.

Even VIPs

"We have a 100-percent security check here that even VIPs undergo. There are three layers of security screening and even if you pass through the first two, for sure you'll be detected in the third one," he said.

A check of security footage at the time Bueser was at the two X-ray machines showed that the screeners looked away at the exact moment the lawmaker's bag passed through the machine.

"We have reviewed the CCTV (closed circuit television) camera, and we admit that there was negligence on the part of the X-ray operators, and they have been relieved and given sanctions and will undergo further training," said Atutubo.

Wait for results

Asked to comment, Bueser said: "I will just wait for the result of the investigation."

Naia lawyers are studying whether Bueser is covered by immunity from suit granted congressmen under certain conditions. Atutubo said Bueser should be grateful that the bullets were discovered here. "If he was able to go on the flight, he would now be in jail in America," said Atutubo.

Although banned, one or two bullets are carried by some Filipinos, who consider them as amulets. But these are not live ammunition and are simply confiscated.

MIAA exec's son dies in accident

THE 11-YEAR-OLD SON OF A MANILA INTERnational Airport Authority official died Saturday from head injuries sustained in a bicycle accident.

Ruben Frederick Zuñiga Uy, son of MIAA executive assistant Robert Uy, apparently fell off his bike and hurt his head. He was taken to a hospital after complaining of a severe headache but passed away.

He was a sixth grade student at St. John's Wort Montessori School.

Aside from his father, he is survived by his mother Rosario and siblings Rachelle, Lynn, Addee, Rikah and Gina.

His remains lie at the Marian Memorial Chapels on the Marcos Highway in Antipolo. Interment plans will be announced later.

Temporary liberty for Erap up to court – Palace

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Leila B. Salaverria

DISMISSING IT AS A POLITICAL gimmick, Malacañang yesterday refused to be drawn into a dispute regarding the opposition's call that detained President Joseph Estrada be freed to allow him to join the campaign trail.

"We leave the matter to the court. We are not taking the bait of the opposition of making the campaign a fight between the Palace and former President Joseph Estrada. The campaign is not about personalities but about issues, not about the past but about the future," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

Bunye said the Palace was pushing for a higher standard of campaigning.

"President Arroyo and Team Unity are campaigning under a platform of continuing growth and reform and will not get bogged down by controversies that are being handled by the courts. We are for unity and reconciliation but under the rule of law," he said.

Presidential Adviser on Legal Affairs Sergio Apostol sounded the same theme, saying Estrada's temporary release was not the problem of Malacañang but of the opposition.

"I have never known any accused that has been allowed to join the campaign trail," Apostol told reporters.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez also weighed in, saying that releasing Estrada for the campaign would be giving the former president, detained on plunder charges, too much privilege.

Gonzalez said the release of Estrada would set a precedent that could be cited by other high-profile prisoners seeking the same concession.

"What would be the parameters of the campaign work that he can do? He is a very privileged prisoner already. Shall we do that to every prisoner who will, for example, be a candidate?" he asked reporters.

"We're not much concerned that he is a flight risk. In my mind, the matter revolves around the question of equal protection. Too much privilege had already been given to him from day one of his incarceration," he said.

He also pointed out that the Supreme Court required that people charged with capital offenses should be detained while on trial.

Leave trees out of election campaign, says DENR exec

By TJ Burgonio

IF YOU CAN'T PREACH THE GREEN GOSPEL, the least you can do is keep your posters off the trees.

With political banners and posters cluttering streets this early in the campaign season, environment officials have appealed to candidates: Spare the trees.

Nailing, wiring or hanging political banners and propaganda materials to trees could injure them, stunt their growth or, worse, lead to their death, Francisco Bravo, senior undersecretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, warned politicians yesterday.

"The immediate effect of political gimmickry using trees, plants and shrubs would be to mar their natural beauty, and worse, it could seriously injure them, resulting in their eventual death or deformity," he said in a statement.

While politics is important in a democratic society, Bravo said that "trees and plants need care, respect and clean air. In return, they bring beauty to our surroundings and provide oxygen that gives life and health to people."

If candidates spared the trees and took care of them, they would win more votes because it would show that "they are concerned with preserving a healthy environment," he said.

"Furthermore, the clean air and oxygen produced by the trees would neutralize the hot air expelled by some of the candidates," the official said, pointing out that the net cooling effect of a young, healthy tree is equivalent to 10 room-size air conditioners operating 20 hours a day.

"One acre of forest absorbs six tons of carbon dioxide and puts out four tons of oxygen. This is enough to meet the annual needs of 18 people. We should treat the trees with more care. Spare trees from the campaign and gain the support of people who live around them," Bravo added.

Despite a widely-known policy of the Commission on Elections designating common poster areas, trees festooned with candidates' posters of all sizes and colors are a common sight during election season.

Meanwhile, a fisherfolk group and a party-list group are stumped as to why no senatorial candidate has announced his agenda on environmental protection.

"We strongly appeal to senatorial candidates to bare their plans regarding the protection of our fragile environment across the country. Let the public know what their green agenda is so the electoral public could decide who to vote for in the May elections," the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas and Anakpawis party-list group said in a statement.

The "green agenda," they noted, was not being given weight and value by the candidates.

"It's time they made the environment one of their priorities, along with their economic and political agendas. If they want our support, they must state their position favorably to the cause of national interest and the environment," they said.

Pamalakaya and Anakpawis are organizing a forum on the environment to discuss the Green Agenda of the Filipino fisherfolk, with the candidates as guests in early May.

Leviste hearing postponed anew

By Jocelyn R. Uy

FORMER BATANGAS GOV. ANTONIO LEVISTE was spared a second time from having to enter a plea in the murder case he is facing in the killing of an aide after a Makati court granted his request to have his arraignment deferred.

Judge Elmo Alameda of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 150 reset the arraignment 30 days hence in view of two petitions pending in the Court of Appeals disputing the reinvestigation of the case and its upgrading from homicide to murder in the shooting death of Leviste's long-time aide and friend Rafael de las Alas.

In a four-page motion, Leviste's lead lawyer, Manuel Singson, said a supplemental petition was filed by the defense with the appellate court on Feb. 16 seeking a review of Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco's resolution which had found probable cause to upgrade the homicide charge against Leviste to murder.

The Makati court had accepted the amended information and issued a warrant of arrest for Leviste on Feb. 7.

Singson argued that since Leviste's arraignment depended on the validity of Velasco's resolution, "there is, therefore, a necessity to defer such arraignment in order to enable the Court of Appeals to rule on the [petition]."

"It is just prudent for the judge to defer it so as not to preempt our other legal remedies," said Henry Capela, another lawyer for Leviste.

Cayetano citizenship questioned

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice is looking into the citizenship of Genuine Opposition senatorial candidate Alan Peter Cayetano, who has clashed with First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo over allegations the latter had secret bank accounts abroad.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday said he received information Cayetano had an alien certificate of registration (ACR), a document issued by the Bureau of Immigration to foreigners living in the country, but he was checking if the certificate had been affirmed by the DOJ as required.

Cayetano is a son of the late Sen. Rene Cayetano and Sandra Schramm, an American.

Yesterday, he blasted the administration for claiming he was not qualified to run for senator because of his citizenship.

"I am 100-percent qualified," he told reporters.

He said he used to hold dual citizenship but he had renounced his American citizenship. *Leila B. Salaverria, Christian V. Esguerra*

Affordable All-in-One Color Copier

COPY • PRINT • SCAN • PC-FAX • DIRECT PHOTO PRINT

KONICA MINOLTA

magicolor 2480 MF

Perfect for Small Copy Centers and Internet Shops!

₱39,500 only

- *Multi-pass laser technology*
- *Copy & Print: 2400 x 600 dpi*
- *Print : 20 ppm b&w / 5 ppm color*
- *Copy : 20 cpm b&w / 5 cpm color*
- *Scan : 24 bit at 600 dpi*
- *PC - Fax via Faxtalk Communicator*
- *35,000 monthly duty cycle*
- *Hi-Speed USB 2.0*

See the magicolor 2480MF in action at the:

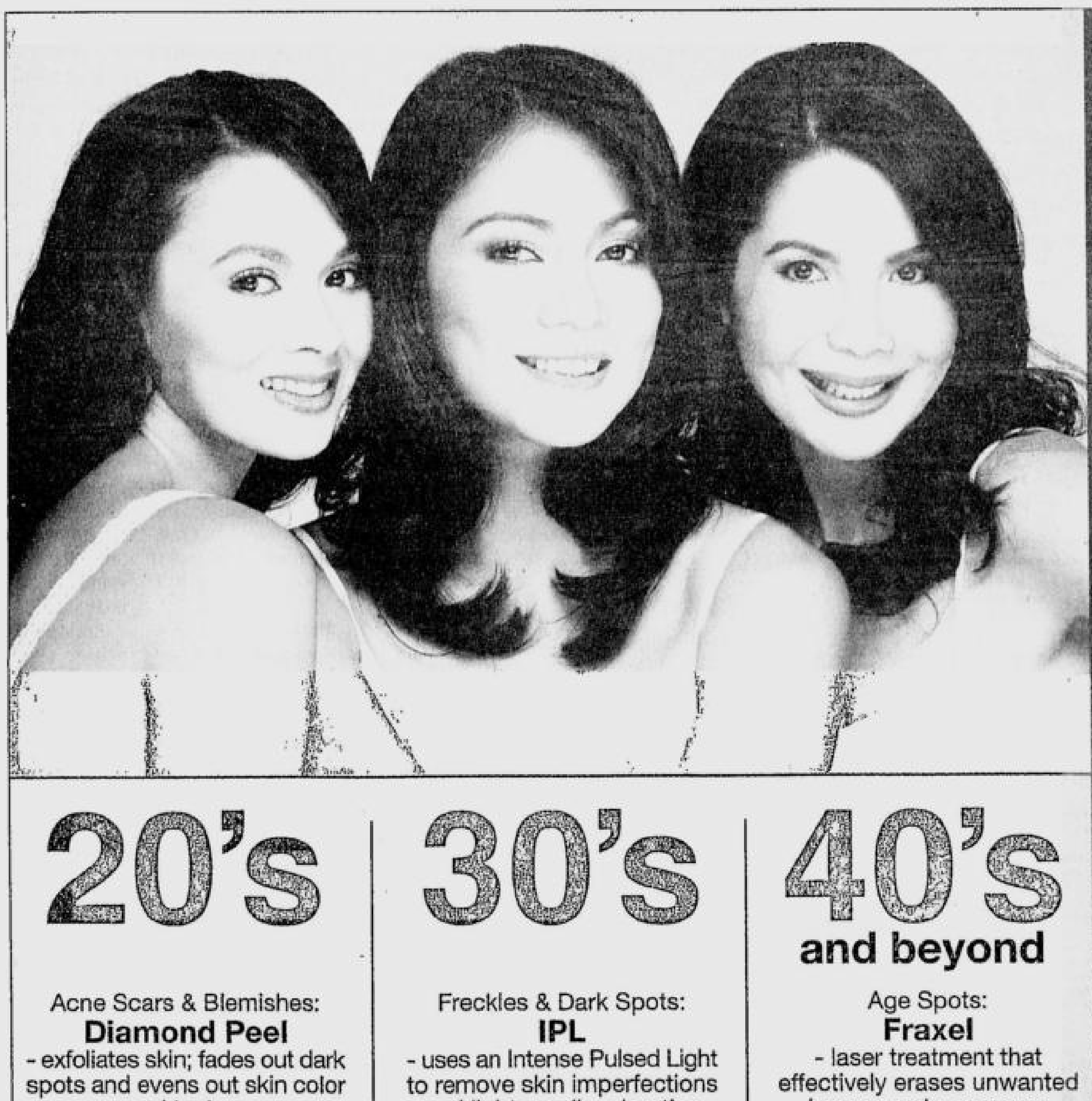
Printing & Document Solutions '07

Feb. 20-22, 10 am-7 pm, 3/F Gallery & Feb. 23, 10 am-7 pm, Rigodon Ballroom
The Peninsula Hotel • Makati City

Exclusively distributed by:
COPYLANDIA
The Total Document Solutions Provider
CALL 7476-888
TEXT 0906-5200026 / 0906-5200046
EMAIL copylandia@copylandia.com

With the widest network of branches to serve you!

ANGELES	(045) 887-2499	CEBU	(032) 232-4522	NAGA	(054) 473-4936
BACOLOD	(034) 433-2559	DAGUPAN	(075) 515-3306	PUERTO PRINCESA	(048) 434-8610
BAGUIO	(074) 446-5356	DAVAO	(082) 224-0793	ROXAS	(036) 621-5896
BUKIDNON	(088) 828-2328	DUMAGUETE	(035) 225-4759	TACLOBAN	(053) 321-7810
BUTUAN	(085) 341-7742	GENERAL SANTOS	(083) 553-9057	TAGBILARAN	(038) 411-2396
CABANATUAN	(044) 600-0377	ILIGAN	(063) 221-3713	TUGUEGARAO	(078) 846-2762
CALAMBA	(049) 545-7284	ILOILO	(033) 320-7485	ZAMBOANGA	(062) 991-2446
CAGAYAN DE ORO	(088) 857-4272	LIPA	(043) 757-0235		



Look Fabulous at Any Age!

Your skin is different from everyone else's. But whether you're in your 20's, 30's, 40's or beyond, Facial Care Centre has the right solutions for your particular skin problems. Come in for a free consultation. Let Facial Care Centre help you get that beautiful, younger-looking skin. Call 892-SKIN (7546) today.

FREE Anti-wrinkle Starter Program
upon enrollment from Feb. 19-24, 2007 only.
Per DTI-NCR Permit #0471, Series of 2007.

20's
Acne Scars & Blemishes:
Diamond Peel
- exfoliates skin; fades out dark spots and evens out skin color and texture

30's
Freckles & Dark Spots:
IPL
- uses an Intense Pulsed Light to remove skin imperfections and lightens discoloration

40's and beyond
Age Spots:
Fraxel
- laser treatment that effectively erases unwanted brown spots, removes wrinkles and resurfaces neck, chest and hands

facial care CENTRE

www.facialcarecentre.com.ph

MAKATI ORTIGAS TOMAS MORATO BINONDO ALABANG SHAW CONGRESS[illegible] PAMPANGA [illegible]

Valenzuela solon dies in car crash

From page A1

SERAPIO: Death on the highway

bus occurred at about 10 a.m., police said.

He was taken to the Nueva Ecija Doctors Hospital here where he died from multiple injuries at about 4 p.m.

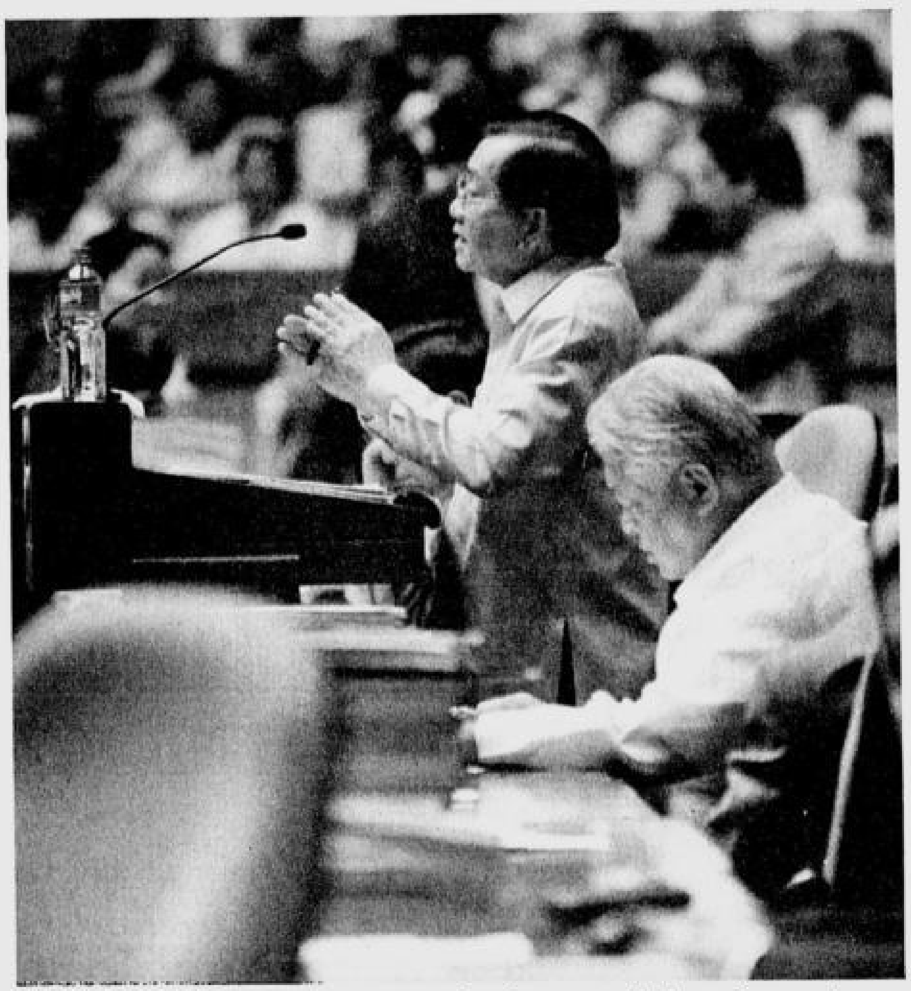
Police said Serapio had visited a friend in Cabiao and was going back to Manila for the Congress session.

Born in Tacloban, Leyte, Serapio would have turned 70 on June 13.

A member of a political clan in Bulacan, Serapio's grandfather, Jose Serapio, was the province's representative to the 1925 Congress. His uncle, Cesar Serapio, was Bulacan's delegate to the 1971 Constitutional Convention.

Serapio had also served as assistant provincial fiscal and a judge in Bulacan.

He is survived by his wife Aurora Fabian and six children.


REP. Simeon Datumanong answers questions from party-list lawmakers on the contents of the antiterrorism bill during the special session at the House of Representatives.
EDWIN BACASMAS

Senate OKs 53 bills in less than 2 hours

By Dona Pazzibugan

IT TOOK THE SENATE, MEETing in a special session and working like a bullet train, less than two hours yesterday to approve on third and final reading a total of 53 bills, mostly local in scope.

Before it adjourned its regular session on Feb. 9, the Senate had already ratified the bicameral conference committee report on the controversial antiterrorism bill.

Eighteen senators showed up for the session, including reelectionist Senate President Manuel Villar and Senators Joker Arroyo, Panfilo Lacson and Edgardo Angara.

Reelectionist Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan and Sen. Ralph Recto were not around.

Among the bills passed yesterday was Senate Bill 2600, or the Oil Pollution Compensation Act.

Cayetano said the bill "lays down tougher rules to make oil polluters pay."

The Senate also approved the bicameral report on a consolidated bill prohibiting hospitals from detaining patients who are unable to pay their bills.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago asked to be excused from the session "on the ground of illness."

"I have been recently diagnosed for gallstones and anemia, and have to stay at home because of their debilitating symptoms," she said.

Terror, Pagcor bills OKd

From page A1

when he met with the accident, his staff said.

"Our colleague, Congressman Serapio, has met a fatal vehicular accident and has just passed away," Speaker Jose de Venecia announced to the chamber. He then asked for a minute's silence.

Soon, the wranglings began.

P500,000 compensation

Administration Rep. Antonio Cuenco of Cebu defended the antiterrorism bill as having enough safeguards to protect human rights, including a provision for P500,000 compensation for every day a suspect is detained if he is later found to be innocent of the charges against him.

Also, under the measure, journalists cannot be forced to reveal the sources of their information in connection with stories on terrorism.

"Those who will vote for this terror bill should be called terrorists," said Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño.

Bayan Muna believes the definition of terrorism under the bill will make the People Power I and II uprisings in 1986 and 2001, respectively, acts of terror.

"If we consider the capricious and whimsical misinterpretation of laws by the justice secretary, we can be sure that [President] Arroyo's critics might soon be tagged as terrorists, too, for demanding her resignation or ouster from office," Bayan Muna said in a statement.

Second blow

The bill was ratified at 7:47 p.m. after Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza raised questions about the quorum and called for the suspension of the proceedings.

With 172 members present after the roll call, the majority imposed its dominance and the ayes carried the day.

The passage of the Pagcor measure, or House Bill No. 3409, further dismayed opposition lawmakers, who vowed to question its ratification. They insisted the chamber lacked a quorum when the time to vote on it came shortly before 9 p.m.

The measure was initially put to a voice vote. Then the chair called for an individual vote.

Only 40 congressmen stood up to signify their "yes" vote, against 16 who rose to indicate their "no" vote.

Pagcor over medicines

The minority then argued that the total votes were not even close to a majority of the 172 congressmen counted during the last roll call.

Cebu Rep. Raul del Mar, deputy speaker for the Visayas, said the number did not necessarily reflect the absence of a quorum.

The minority was particularly angered by the majority's decision to take up the Pagcor issue ahead of a bill which seeks to drastically reduce the price of medicine in the Philippines.

"Why are we prioritizing this bill over a bill that will reduce the price of medicines?" Casiño asked.

"What's so sweet about the Pagcor franchise?" asked Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico.

Sorsogon Rep. Francis Escudero warned "it won't look good" if the House ratified the bill just before the May elections.

"We know Pagcor wants something that we can give them (and) many of us want something from Pagcor," he said.

Escudero said Congress still had enough time to deliberate on the Pagcor issue, noting that its current franchise would not expire until July 11, 2008.

Some of the congressmen interrupted their campaigning for the May 14 midterm elections to attend yesterday's session.

Ms Arroyo called the special session to facilitate the passage of several pieces of legislation which the administration regarded as urgent, including the bill on the parallel importation of medicines.

The antiterrorism bill defines terrorism as those crimes committed with the purpose of sowing and creating widespread and extraordinary fear and panic in order to coerce the government to give in to an unlawful demand.

40 years in jail

These crimes include piracy in general, mutiny in the high seas, rebellion, coup d'etat, murder, kidnapping, destruction of property through arson, highway robbery, hijacking, and illegal possession of firearms and explosives.

It punishes terrorism and conspiracy to commit terrorism with 40 years' imprisonment.

The proposed measure allows warrantless arrests and detention for three days, surveillance through wiretapping, examination of otherwise confidential bank records, and the proscription of organizations as terrorist groups.

Its defenders say it has enough safeguards to ensure that the human rights of the people will not be violated, including penalizing torture during detention of suspected terrorists.

International commitment

"The antiterrorism bill is a commitment by the Philippine government to the international community," De Venecia said before the session convened.

"The measure is also needed by the police authorities in our commitment to keep our citizens safe from extremists' activities."

De Venecia said the Philippines, a key US ally, would face international embarrassment if the law—intended to strengthen the country's campaign against terrorists linked to Saudi-born Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network—was not passed.

Bayan opposes

Police had sought the death penalty for convicted terrorists, but Congress abolished capital punishment last year.

The leftist Bayan group said the definition of terrorism under the law was "too broad and vague and may include legitimate forms of dissent."

"As soon as Ms Arroyo signs the antiterrorism act, we go to the Supreme Court," Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes said as the group held a protest outside Congress.

GO drops Makati, goes to San Juan

From page A1

trial on plunder and perjury charges.

"Some people from San Juan arrived (at Estrada's mother's Kennedy Street residence) and asked that the proclamation rally be held in their town," said Lito Banayo, one of the political advisers of the opposition's senatorial candidates.

"It was discussed and (United Opposition president and Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay) agreed," Banayo said.

With San Juan now the venue of the proclamation rally, the presence of Estrada is expected to be projected more in the media should the Sandiganbayan allow him to campaign from his North Greenhills home.

The administration's Team Unity held its proclamation rally for its 12 senatorial candidates in Cebu City on Saturday, with President Macapagal-Arroyo raising the hands of the candidates.

Banayo and GO spokesperson Adel Tamano, nonetheless, denied that the prospect of Estrada being allowed to leave Tanay and campaign was not a consideration for the change in venue.

Commitment to poor

"It is because of the Genuine Opposition's commitment to the poor that we have chosen to have our proclamation rally in San Juan, the birthplace of the Philippine revolution," Tamano said at a news conference.

He said San Juan was made the venue for the proclamation rally even before the opposition's call for Estrada to be allowed to campaign.

Former Sen. Loren Legarda, one of GO's leading senatorial candidates, said San Juan had a tradition of rallying behind the standards of liberty and due process.

"I am confident San Juan will stand up against an administration that has suppressed civil liberties and trampled upon the rule of law through serial violations of human rights and the breakup of rallies in the exercise of freedom of expression as guaranteed by the Constitution," Legarda said.

Tamano said Estrada, as the avowed leader of the opposition, should be allowed to campaign for GO's candidates in the same manner that Ms Arroyo is going around the country pushing for the candidacy of the members of Team Unity.

Tamano, a lawyer, said the former president was entitled to his political rights because he still enjoyed the presumption of innocence pending the verdict in his plunder trial before the Sandiganbayan.

Estrada is accused of receiving billions of pesos from sources such as tobacco taxes and operators of *jueteng*, an illegal numbers game.

"He still has the right to participate in the electoral process. He still has the right to freedom of expression," Tamano said.

Help from well-off candidates

Faced with a lack of campaign funds, GO is enlisting the help of relatively well-off candidates to assist their less-fortunate colleagues.

Banayo said individual candidates were pitching in to make the senatorial campaign easier for every member of the slate.

"For instance, (reelectionist Sen. Panfilo Lacson) is helping (Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano) with his poster expenses," Banayo said.

Banayo said the cost of putting up posters was much more than having them printed. Pasting posters in Commission on Elections-designated poster areas entails manpower and other costs.

"(Former Sen. John Osmeña), on the other hand, has taken charge of all activities relating to the putting up of posters in the Visayas," Banayo said.

Maximize resources

He said House Minority Leader Francis Escudero was helping out Sonia Roco, widow of Bicolano Sen. Raul Roco, in her campaign in Southern Luzon.

"We realize that the campaign period is quite short. Since we don't have much money, we need to maximize our resources," said Tamano.

"For instance, Ping is already well-known in Luzon. But he may not be that popular in Mindanao. It doesn't make sense for him to spend much time in Luzon with the other candidates," Tamano said.

Tamano said GO would likely break up into campaign teams, with members propping up each other in their respective bailiwicks.

"For instance, Sonia Roco is already well-known in Bicol. But it will be good for the other candidates if they are seen with Roco there," he said.

ATTENTION LAWYERS!

The deadline for the second compliance period of the Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) is on **APRIL 15, 2007.**

Legis Forum, Inc., an accredited MCLE provider, shall conduct a full 36-unit MCLE course in MAKATI CITY on **March 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2007.**

Credits earned can be credited to either the first or second compliance period.

Pursuant to Bar Matter 850, non-compliance with the MCLE requirement shall be a cause for listing a lawyer as a delinquent member of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) and consequently, he shall not be permitted to practice law.

Notices of non-compliance for the first compliance period of the MCLE are now being sent out by the MCLE Committee.

Avoid being listed as a delinquent member of the IBP and consequently, not permitted to practice law!

REGISTER NOW!

✂- -

Registration Form (Please Check ✓)

☐ Full 36-unit MCLE course
☐ Half-day/s MCLE seminar (a.m. sessions: 8:00-12:15; p.m. sessions: 1:00-6:15)

	Date	Credit Units/Subject Per Bar Matter 850	Lecturer
☐	March 03 a.m.	2/Trial and Pre-Trial Skills 2/MCLE Prescribed Subjects: Recent Jurisprudence in Family Law Cases	DCA Zenaida N. Elepaño Prof. Melencio S. Sta. Maria
☐	March 03 p.m.	2/Legal Ethics 3/Alternative Dispute Resolution	Justice Hilarion L. Aquino Dean Custodio O. Parlade
☐	March 10 a.m.	2/Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy 2/International Law	Justice Ruben T. Reyes Prof. H. Harry L. Roque, Jr.
☐	March 10 p.m.	2/MCLE Prescribed Subjects: Forensic Evidence: DNA & its Analysis 3/Updates in Criminal Law	Dra. Raquel B. Del Rosario-Fortun Justice Diosdado M. Peralta
☐	March 17 a.m.	2/Legal Ethics 2/Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy	Justice Hector L. Hofileña Prof. Eugenio H. Villareal
☐	March 17 p.m.	2/Trial and Pre-Trial Skills 3/Updates in Substantive & Procedural Laws and Jurisprudence: SRC & Corporate Governance	Justice Edilberto G. Sandoval SEC Director Justina F. Callangan
☐	March 24 a.m.	2/Legal Ethics 2/Alternative Dispute Resolution	Justice Jose L. Sabio, Jr. Dean Froilan M. Bacungan
☐	March 24 p.m.	3/Updates in Constitutional Law 2/MCLE Prescribed Subjects: Technology and the Law	Prof. H. Harry L. Roque, Jr. Atty. Ivan John E. Uy

Name of Participant: ______________ Tel. No.: ______________ Fax No.: ______________

✂- -

Cut and fax to: (632) 844-3935; 886-7868 or 887-3106

Our Venue, is conveniently located at the **Tiara Oriental Hotel**, Makati corner Tailsay Streets, San Antonio Village, Makati City

Attendees shall be provided with: meals (a.m./p.m. snacks & lunch), free-flowing coffee/tea, seminar (computer) bag, seminar kit, lecture materials, certificates of attendance.

For inquiries, please call: (632) 886-7868; 844-3871; 844-3919; 844-3906

Call or send SMS at: 0917-8874978 or 0917-8874988

Or you may log on to www.legisforum.com & register online

Legis Forum, Inc. 8th Floor Chatham House, 116 Valero cor. Herrera Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City

Correction

IN THE FEB. 19 issue, a Page B10 headline in the Business section—"ALI-FBDC venture earmarks P10B for projects catering to BPO firms"—misstated the partner of Ayala Land Inc. in a new joint venture, ALI Property Partners Corp. (APPCO). APPCO is a joint venture between ALI and Goldman Sachs' MLT Investments Ltd. and Capmark Asia's Filipinas Investments Ltd.—not Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. (FBDC).

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

'60s 'Let's GO' is opposition's campaign tune

By Volt Contreras

THE GENUINE OPPOSITION (GO) senatorial ticket will have a catchy rock-and-roll tune from the '60s—"Let's Go" by The Ventures—as template for its campaign jingle, the INQUIRER learned yesterday.

The Ventures is an American instrumental group.

The INQUIRER also learned that among the first marching orders deposed President Joseph Estrada gave to the opposition campaign leaders was to tap thousands of volunteer lawyers and paralegal personnel to guard the vote in the upcoming May polls.

Lawyer Rufus Rodriguez, spokesperson of Estrada, said the GO machinery would need legal personnel to watch the canvassing in 80 provinces, 117 cities, 215 congressional districts and around 1,600 municipalities.

Rodriguez said Estrada raised the matter during a meeting with nine out of the 12 candidates in the GO lineup, held at his mother's San Juan residence on Sunday.

The Sandiganbayan had permitted Estrada to visit the 102-year-old Mary Ejercito.

His political camp apparently took advantage of the occasion to meet with their party boss, especially because police at his Tanay, Rizal, rest house where he is detained had been restricting his visitors and his use of mobile phones the past two weeks.

The meeting also allowed the GO candidates to tape a video and radio ad in one of the rooms of the Ejercito residence, Rodriquez recalled, as well as have their photos taken with Estrada raising their hands as a sign of his endorsement.

Separate tapings are planned for GO's "guest candidates" Manny Villar and Kiko Pangilinan, and the detained Lt. Antonio Trillanes, Rodriguez said.

Late PNP chief, 2 others cleared of graft charges

By Volt Contreras

THE SANDIGANBAYAN HAS ACquitted deceased former Philippine National Police Director General Cesar Nazareno and two other police officers accused of involvement in the ghost purchase of some P20-million worth of equipment for the PNP in 1992.

The antigraft court noted, however, that the amount was still unaccounted for and was not used for the purchase, but public prosecutors failed to prove that Nazareno and the other officers directly caused "actual damage to the government."

Along with Nazareno, who died in October last year, the Sandiganbayan's Fifth Division cleared then Director Guillermo Domondon, PNP director for comptrollership, and Supt. Salvador Manga Jr., chief comptroller for PNP Eastern Visayas.

The officers were charged with conspiring to release P20.16 million to buy combat, clothing and individual equipment (CCIEs) for Recom 8 personnel without prior approval from the Department of Budget and Management.

The charge sheet said that no such items were delivered to Recom 8 and yet the accused "made it appear" otherwise.

The officers were tried for violation of the antigraft law. The case was pursued by the Office of the Ombudsman then under Aniano Disierto.

The Feb. 1 decision penned by Associate Justice Roland Jurado but released only yesterday said: "The evidence adduced in this case show that while government indeed suffered actual damage in the amount of P20.16 million, considering that the same was not utilized for the purpose and was not liquidated, such damage was not proved to have been caused by any of the accused."

"It is a very sad and disheartening scenario to see that no one is punished for the loss of millions of pesos from the treasury of the government, so huge an amount that could have benefited the police officers and men who serve and protect the Filipino people.

"However, the constitutionally enshrined presumption of innocence of the accused cannot be worth a price tag."

Nazareno and Domondon were cleared because the evidence was not sufficient to show that they had a direct hand in the preparation of vouchers for the P20.16 million. Neither was it shown that they pocketed the amount or parts of it, the court said.

Nazareno, in particular, could not be linked to the crime charged merely based on command responsibility, as such principle was "not applicable" in the case, the court added.

The court noted Manga's main defense that his signature had been "forged" in a document—a memorandum receipt of cash advance—to make it appear that he received P20.16 million in cash from three other subordinate officers who later testified for the prosecution.

Manga had claimed under oath that he could not have signed the memo on the same day he was on an out-of-town meeting, the decision said. The signature in the document also had his middle initial wrong.

The prosecution did not present evidence to rebut Manga's claims, especially regarding the forgery, the Sandiganbayan said.

Honasan loses Senate race – of 2001

THE SUPREME COURT HAS DISmissed former Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan's plea to invalidate the Commission on Election's findings that ranked him 13th in the 2001 senatorial race.

In rejecting Honasan's petition, the high court said he should have brought the matter to the Senate Electoral Tribunal, which is the body that handles such electoral protests.

Honasan is running again for the Senate in May. He is presently detained on coup charges for his alleged role in the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

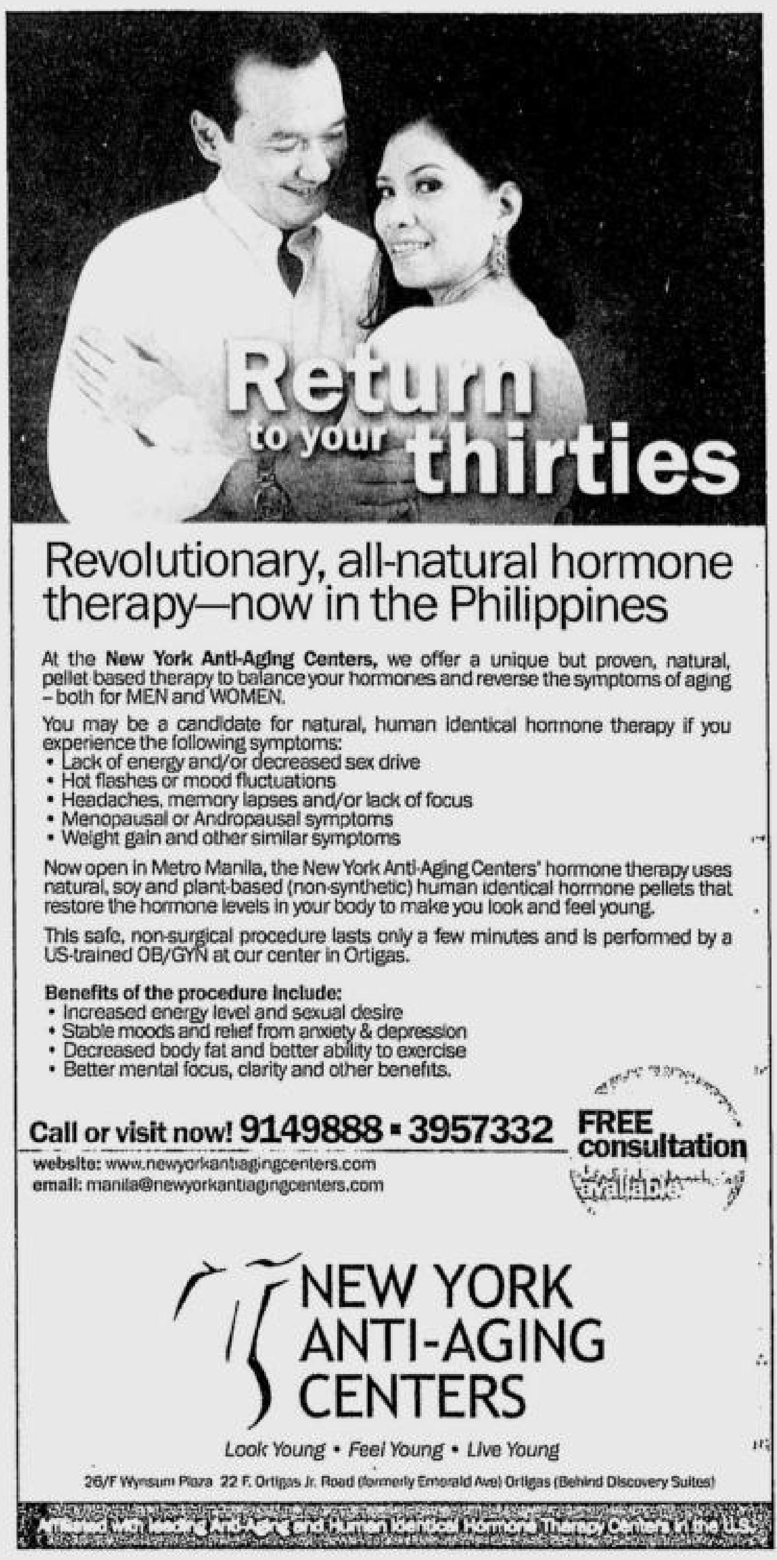
In his petition, Honasan claimed he should have ranked 12th instead of Sen. Ralph Recto, but was ranked 13th by the Comelec's National Board of Canvassers, which he said was unconstitutional since not all members of the board voted on his petition.

According to Honasan, the Constitution requires that constitutional commissions like the Comelec shall decide by a majority vote of all its members on any issue brought before it.

He said the resolution of the canvassers' board was only decided by a majority of members present at a certain time, and not by a majority of all of the board's members.

But the high tribunal rejected Honasan's contention that the resolution violated the Constitution. *Leila B. Salaverria*

SAVE 80% ON AIRCON BILLS!
Join now the thousands of IWATA Aircons being used by many companies & enjoy Big Reduction on Aircon Electricity Cost!
ONLY 170 & 340 Watts
USE... IWATA EVAPORATIVE AIR-CONDITIONER
and Save about 80% on your aircon Electricity Bills
Energy Saving & Environmental-Friendly & No CFC Pollution
No Compressor, No Condenser, No Freon Gas, Easy operation, just plug it to any 220 V outlet & start enjoying your big savings on electricity cost!
Water Pipe
Water Pipe
Outdoor Air
Cooling Pad
Temperature dropping principle of IWATA Evaporative Aircon
Water Pump
MULTI-LAYERED CONGRUENT WAVE & FIBER COOLING PAD MAKES WATER COLD
COOLING PADS
IWATA
KLF-02B3
KLF-02B4
Other Industrial Models Available
IWATA
KLF-06B
For Home, Office & Commercial use
IWATA sucks in the warm air from outside & enters the air-con unit thru the cooling pads then the air passes thru the water that continuously & automatically flows down the wide surface area of the cooling pads like waterfalls & simultaneous evaporation takes place. The strong fan then pushes the cool clean fresh air into the room and at the same time increases the volume of oxygen in the area. Evaporative aircon unit decreases temperature by absorbing the heat in the air with evaporation. As per principle, water absorbs heat after evaporating, & the evaporated area affects the evaporating efficiency. When warm air passes through the cooling pad (which has an actual heat exchange area of a hundred times as that of the surface area), it will be absorbed, thus, dropping the air temperature going to your room.
★ Eliminates or reduces air-contaminants & Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) as air coming out of the aircon must pass through the water to constantly give you fresh cleaned cool air everytime. SAVE ₱ SAVE ₱ SAVE ₱ SAVE ₱ SAVE ₱ SAVE ₱ SAVE ₱
Join now the many satisfied users enjoying big savings on their aircon electric bills.
For demo call: Sole Agent COLENT ENTERPRISE CO.
Suite 200 Del Monte Mansion Bldg., Del Monte Ave., cor. Speaker Perez St., Quezon City
Tels.: 412-4317, 411-2396 to 98, 742-8138 to 42, 740-3815 Fax: 411-2399 E-mail: colent@pldtdsl.net Cebu New Datche: 032-2556416



Revolutionary, all-natural hormone therapy—now in the Philippines
At the **New York Anti-Aging Centers**, we offer a unique but proven, natural, pellet based therapy to balance your hormones and reverse the symptoms of aging – both for MEN and WOMEN.
You may be a candidate for natural, human identical hormone therapy if you experience the following symptoms:
- Lack of energy and/or decreased sex drive
- Hot flashes or mood fluctuations
- Headaches, memory lapses and/or lack of focus
- Menopausal or Andropausal symptoms
- Weight gain and other similar symptoms
Now open in Metro Manila, the New York Anti-Aging Centers' hormone therapy uses natural, soy and plant-based (non-synthetic) human identical hormone pellets that restore the hormone levels in your body to make you look and feel young.
This safe, non-surgical procedure lasts only a few minutes and is performed by a US-trained OB/GYN at our center in Ortigas.
Benefits of the procedure include:
- Increased energy level and sexual desire
- Stable moods and relief from anxiety & depression
- Decreased body fat and better ability to exercise
- Better mental focus, clarity and other benefits.
Call or visit now! 9149888 • 3957332 FREE consultation available
website: www.newyorkantiagingcenters.com
email: manila@newyorkantiagingcenters.com
NEW YORK ANTI-AGING CENTERS
Look Young • Feel Young • Live Young
26/F Wynsum Plaza 22 F. Ortigas Jr. Road (formerly Emerald Ave) Ortigas (Behind Discovery Suites)
Affiliated with leading Anti-Aging and Human Identical Hormone Therapy Centers in the U.S.

SLIMMERS WORLD
GREAT BODIES. GREAT SKIN.
BUY 1 MONTH GET 1 MONTH FREE!
FOR ENROLEES TODAY! TO GET YOU STARTED.
PLUS! FREE TRIAL!
PERSONAL TRAINING AND ALL THE LATEST AEROBICS!
LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP. 0% INTEREST! NO MONTHLY DUES! WITH MEDICAL SUPERVISION.
BODY METRICS LOSE 16 INCHES IN ONLY 60 MINUTES AND ALL YOUR CELLULITES
FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO HAVE A GREAT BODY BUT CANNOT BE CONVINCED TO EXERCISE, AND SURGERY IS NOT AN OPTION...
TRY OUR *PASSIVE SLIMMING PROGRAMS!* GET FANTASTIC RESULTS EFFORTLESSLY!
PASSIVE SLIMMING PROGRAMS STARTS AT ONLY P250.00 PER TREATMENT.
Introducing ENDOSLIM
SCULPT YOUR CURVES... BODIES DONE, HAVE FUN!
CALL US: FITNESS HOTLINE 536-3333 | MOBILE NUMBER 091-SLIMMERS (75466377)
www.slimmersworld.com.ph inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph
ALABANG Gemma 2F RCBC Bldg. Zapote-Alabang Rd. 809-0395
BINONDO Jaymmee/Daisy 2F Regina Garden II 242-1312
CALOOCAN Olive/Roda 6F Panorama Bldg. Rizal Ave. 365-7653
CEBU Juana Basement 1&2 Ayala Center 231-3254
GREENHILLS Anna 27F Atlanta Ctr. #31 Annapolis 726-6505
LEGASPI VILLAGE Loni/Nesmie GF Zeta Bldg. Salcedo St. 893-8935
MALATE Daisy/Mhaye 6F Adriatico Square Adriatico, Manila 536-0619
MEGAMALL Ruby/Toni 2F Bldg. A Mandaluyong 631-3869
PASAY ROAD Val/Kaizy 1032 Arnaiz Ave. cor. Hernandez St. 887-1335
PASIG Abbie/Haidee/Ghezzi Restaurant Ave. Marcos Hi-Way 681-5333
SM NORTH Michelle/Sarah Lower Ground Flr. Main Bldg. SM North 926 50 14
SUBIC Beth 2F Times Square Rizal Hi-Way 252-6514
TRAFALGAR Emily 28F Trafalgar Plaza H.V. Dela Costa 814-0138
GREAT SAVINGS! BUY 15 TREATMENTS GET 15 FREE!
ON SKIN, FACE & BODY TREATMENTS. FIRST 25 SLOTS. CREDIT CARD OPTIONS AT 0%
- MESO WHITE
- MESO REJUVINATION
- COSMETIC FILLERS
- NUTRACELL-FACE
- WART REMOVAL
- LASER ACNE TREATMENT
- SKIN WHITENING
- FACIAL

DIAMOND ULTRAPEEL For beautiful smooth white skin.
CALL US: SKIN HOTLINE 525-8771 MOBILE NUMBER 091-SLIMMERS (75466377)
ALABANG: Noel 775 05 87 / 0918 391 25 10
BINONDO: Jona 242 07 28 / 0917 822 43 99
CALOOCAN: Olive / Roda 365 76 53
GREENHILLS: Lai 726 15 26 / 09178261204
MALATE: Yvette / Gein 525 98 91 / 0921 466 94 23
MEGAMALL: Bianca / Mariel 637 75 43 / 0916 247 97 53
PASAY ROAD: Eleanor 887 35 30 / 0915 689 30 88
PASIG: Jihan / Gladys 647 38 16 / 0917 614 37 30
SM NORTH: Jen 926 50 14 / 0905 269 07 17

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, February 20, 2007
7th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Sir 2:1-11
Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; but Jesus did not want people to know where he was because he was teaching his disciples. And he told them, "The Son of Man will be delivered into human hands. They will kill him, but three days after he has been killed, he will rise." The disciples, however, did not understand these words and they were afraid to ask him what he meant.

They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house, Jesus asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?" But they did not answer because they had been arguing about who was the greatest.

Then he sat down, called the Twelve and said to them, "If someone wants to be first, let him be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child, placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it he said to them, "Whoever welcomes a child such as this in my name, welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me, welcomes not me but the One who sent me."

Commentary

We are warned to prepare ourselves for trials, to cling to God in times of adversity, and not forsake God. Trust, hope, fear the Lord, and wait for his mercy. Hang on for the long haul! Remember that the Lord is compassionate and merciful, and he saves us in times of trouble. Lent begins tomorrow. It is good advice.

And Jesus too tries to warn us as disciples what is going to happen to him: he will be delivered over into the hands of men who will torture him and put him to death, yet he will rise. They did not understand and still, often we don't—that we must walk the way of the cross with Jesus so to know his glory and resurrection. We must be buried with Christ in baptism and so rise with him to a life that declares compassion and mercy through the Cross. But they are not listening. They are fighting about who is going to be first. Jesus disarms them by setting a child in their midst—one without any power at the time. Jesus tells us to welcome this child, welcome the poor, the stranger—and "you will not only welcome me, but the one who sent me"—the Father.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications) & http://www.claretphilippines.org (Claretian Missionaries in the Philippines)

Nurses to plead case in US

From page A1

The CGFNS announced Thursday that the June passers would not be eligible for VisaScreen certificates, a federally approved screening program for foreign health workers seeking occupational visas in the United States, unless they retook and passed the portions of the exam which questions had been leaked beforehand.

Some 17,800 of 42,006 examinees passed the June 2006 board exam.

Take bitter pill

Dante Ang, chair of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, said passers of the June 2006 licensure exam must retake and pass Tests 3 (medical-surgical nursing) and 5 (psychiatric nursing) so they can get an occupational visa in the United States.

"The solution is to take the bitter pill. Retake. If not, then apply elsewhere. It's as simple as that," said Ang.

Rey Salud, who passed the June licensure exam, said it would be unfair if the board passers had to take the exam again.

"We are the ones suffering here," said Salud, who attended yesterday's meeting to ask the PNA to help him and the others appeal the CGFNS decision.

Ang said he spoke with the US Embassy's nonimmigrant visa office, and confirmed that "everybody has to go through the VisaScreen," which is different from the CGFNS examination that is not required in all US states.

The country, he said, could not impose its own standards on the United States.

He said the CGFNS position was not a form of pressure on the Philippine government to change its decision on how to handle the leakage controversy that marred the licensure exam.

Issue of competency

"They have their own set of laws, we have our own standards. If you don't subscribe to their standards, you have an option not to go there. It's like they're saying what you did in the Philippines falls short of our standards," he said.

Ang said the CGFNS decision was not an issue of sovereignty, but of competency and of public health and safety.

"We have to help the nurses, but my request is for people to be sober," he added.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, who was against a retake of the nursing exam when the leakage controversy broke out, said the Philippines could not force the United States to take in the June 2006 nursing exam passers.

"We can't compel them to accept us. We can't be forced to retake, but we have to accept the consequences," he said.

The CGFNS announced its decision a day after the Supreme Court rejected with finality, on a technicality, the plea of certain groups to order a retake of the tainted portions of the exam.

Nursing professors led by those from the University of Sto. Tomas questioned before the Supreme Court the Court of Appeals decision ordering only a selective retake of the exam, paving the way for the oath-taking of the passers.

The appellate court had ruled that those affected by the PRC recomputation of grades, which the commission nullified, should retake Tests 3 and 5.

Of the 1,687 the appellate court said would have to retake the tests, 1,200 took them and 90 percent of them passed, according to the PRC.

The Alliance of New Nurses (ANN) said the government should exhaust all means to appeal the CGFNS decision.

"The government and the nursing industry owe that to us," ANN spokesperson Renato Aquino said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

Rosero said the 17,000 Filipino nurses who passed the June board exam could benefit from the move to appeal directly to the CGFNS.

"We will likewise ask Secretary Dante Ang to come with us," Rosero said.

Ang, who earlier pushed for a retake to preserve the integrity of the nursing licensure examination, denied that he was responsible for the CGFNS decision.

"I did not create the mess. Who leaked the questions?" he said.

Culture of mediocrity

He lambasted his critics, saying their statements worsened the image of the country.

"It is that kind of talk that makes matters worse for us. It gives the impression that some people are perpetuating a culture of mediocrity," he said.

He said he went to the United States to meet with the National Council of State Boards of Nursing to show it that "the government does not condone mediocrity and we have a policy of excellence."

He said the government had charged the people involved in the leakage and had placed the PRC, which administers the nursing exam, under the labor department.

RP seeking informal talks with US nursing body, says Brion

By Jerome Aning

LABOR SECRETARY ARTURO BRION said the Philippine government may open informal talks with the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools to ask for a "flexible implementation" of its policy.

Brion said he met with CGFNS representatives on Sunday and asked them if they were flexible about the retake of Tests 3 and 5 for Filipino nurses who passed the June 2006 board exam and wanted to work in America.

"'We can talk,' they said; we talked about some options, which I cannot yet make public," he told reporters.

He said the country could explore the possible flexible implementation of the CGFNS policy during the informal talks.

Brion met with officials of the Professional Regulation Commission yesterday morning to relay the "options" he discussed with the CGFNS representatives.

"I think these options could solve our problem with CGFNS," Brion said.

Brion said he asked the group to make public announcements explaining the VisaScreen process.

He said CGFNS representatives were planning to put up a "public bulletin" to explain the policies of their group and to clarify the "retake" requirement for June 2006 nursing licensure exam passers.

In an earlier radio interview, Brion said he consulted with the Department of Labor and Employment's legal department and found out that the possibility of a formal appeal as ordered by President Macapagal-Arroyo last week was slim.

"I've asked our lawyers to look into the matter but so far they are not too happy about a formal appeal and say there is not much we can do about a US law," he told radio station dzEC.

Brion acknowledged that the government was still not sure how it could assist the affected June passers in getting jobs in the United States, at least for now.

Malacañang had promised to extend assistance to the examinees in getting work abroad.

Let us remember with pride! Let us commemorate together as a nation –

EDSA PEOPLE POWER REVOLUTION
21st ANNIVERSARY, FEBRUARY 22-25, 2007

MAGKAISA PARA SA BANSA! SAMA-SAMA, KAYANG-KAYA!

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES:

FEBRUARY 22, 2007, THURSDAY
MILITARY DAY
WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY
Libingan ng mga Bayani

H.E. PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
Guest of Honor

H.E. FORMER PRESIDENT FIDEL V. RAMOS
Special Guest

7:30 A.M. Arrival: **H.E.President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo**
Full Military Honors
National Anthem
Wreath-laying : **H.E.President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo**
Flower Drop
Introduction of the Special Guest :
EPPC **Chair, Exec. Sec. Eduardo R. Ermita**
Inspirational Message: **H.E. Former President Fidel V. Ramos**
Fellowship Breakfast at the Bulwagan ng mga Bayani

9:30 A.M. **PRESS CONFERENCE** at the Bulwagan ng mga Bayani
Special Guests: **H.E. Former President Fidel V. Ramos**
Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino

FEBRUARY 23, 2007, FRIDAY
YOUTH DAY
EDSA 1 DOCUMENTARY PRESENTATION

9:00 A..M ABC 5
11:00 A..M. NBN 4
1:00 P.M. IBC 13
3:00 P.M. QTV 11
RADIO BROADCASTS AND TV TELECASTS OF EDSA I DOCUMENTARY, for Listening/viewing in schools nationwide. Knowledge Channel and Local Community Channels will be showing it at these times also.

3:00 P.M. **INAUGURATION** of Jovito Salonga Hall and Alfonso T. Yuchengco Auditorium by Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation at Bantayog Memorial Center, Quezon Avenue corner EDSA, Quezon City

FEBRUARY 24, 2007, SATURDAY
RELIGIOUS DAY
FEAST OF OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH
EDSA Shrine

12:15 P.M. **EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION**

6:00 P.M. **CULTURAL SHOW after the 5:30 P.M. Mass**

FEBRUARY 25, 2007, SUNDAY
PEOPLE'S DAY
FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY
People Power Monument

7:00 A.M. Arrival of Guests
7:30 A.M. Arrival: **H.E. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo**
Military Honors
7:45 A.M. FLAG-RAISING: **H.E. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo**
Assisted by : **H.E. Vice President Noli V. de Castro**
H.E. Former President Fidel V. Ramos
H.E. Former President Corazon C. Aquino
EPPC **Chair, Exec. Sec. Eduardo R. Ermita**
AFP **Chief B.Gen. Hermogenes C. Esperon**
National Anthem: **Nolyn Cabahug**
Municipal Colors by Mayors together with EPPC & SOEF Flags
Panunumpa sa Watawat
Ecumenical Prayer
Release of Balloon Streamer
Inspirational Song
Presentation of Special Awards by Spirit of EDSA Foundation
Introduction of the Special Guest:
EPPC **Chair, Exec. Sec. Eduardo R. Ermita**
Inspirational Message: **H.E. President Gloria Macapagal- Arroyo**
Finale Song: Magkaisa
Kapit Bisig/Shower of Confetti
(Simultaneous in all cities nationwide: FLAG-RAISING, ECUMENICAL PRAYER)

10:00 A.M. **DAY- LONG JOB FAIR** by POEA

11:00 A.M. **EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION** at EDSA Shrine
Main Celebrant & Homilist: **Rev. Romeo Intengan, SJ**
Concelebrants : **Msgr. Nico Bautista**
Rev. James Reuter, SJ
Rev. Fr. Vic Apacible

3:00 P.M. **UNITY IN SPORTS:** Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas in colaboration with POC/PSC/EPPC/SOEF at Ninoy Aquino Stadium, Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, Adriatico St., Malate, Manila
Celebrities, Movie Stars Teams UAAP Champion (UST) vs. NCAA Champion (San Beda)
Simultaneous Sports Events in Bacolod, Cebu, Davao

FREEDOM HERITAGE PERFORMANCES at Fort Santiago: NCCA. PA Culture. PITI Center of Culture for Peace

8:00 P.M. **KASIYAHAN SA KALAYAAN:** sponsored by City of Manila at Baywalk, Roxas Blvd., Manila

9:00 P.M. **FIREWORKS** at Baywalk

TELECASTS/BROADCASTS:

EDSA I DOCUMENTARY
Feb. 22: 9 AM - QTV 11
4 PM – RPN 9
7 PM – NBN 4
Feb. 23: 4 PM – RPN 9

EQUILIBRIUM: MEMORIES OF EDSA
Feb. 22 8 PM – NBN 4 (sponsored by PA on Agrarian Reform, NBN 4)

SINING GISING, UGNAYAN SA TINIG NG BAYAN
Feb. 25 4 PM – NBN 4 (sponsored by NCCA, DepEd, PA on Culture, Phil. ITI Center of Culture for Peace, NBN 4)

RADYO BALINTATAW: EDSA PEOPLE POWER IN FOCUS
Feb. 18/25, March 2 9:15 PM – DZRH: Phil. ITI Center of Culture for Peace, Earthsavers Movement, DREAMS Academy

"Father of all the ages, you have given us the freedom to shape our destinies in unity and the virtues to surmount together the challenges that confront us in the quest for what is good.... Father of all the ages, we are still treading that path, occasionally threatened by a flood of distrust or a tide of despair.... We ask you, Father, to strengthen the virtues you have given us so that we can build a society that is humane and peaceful and a community that does not want. All we commit in return, Father, is an undying thirst for what is peaceful, what is righteous, what is good." (From: EPPC ECUMENICAL PRAYER)

- EDSA PEOPLE POWER COMMISSION: 721-88-92

ADVT

Japan hits US 'comfort women' bill

TOKYO—JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER TARO Aso on Monday denounced a resolution before the United States Congress demanding that Tokyo make amends for forcing foreign women into sexual slavery during World War II.

The bill, seen as more likely to pass since the Democrats took control of Congress last month, calls on Japan to "formally and unambiguously apologize and acknowledge the tragedy."

Aso said Japan had already said and done enough on the issue of the "comfort women," and that Tokyo was working to convince US lawmakers to accept its position.

"It is extremely regrettable and not based on objective facts," Aso said of the US resolution.

"Their action does not take into account the Japanese government's response to the issue of comfort women," he said in the Diet, the Japanese parliament.

Historians have said at least 200,000 young women, mostly from Korea but also from the Philippines, China, Indonesia and Taiwan, were forced to serve as sex slaves for Japanese soldiers.

In 1993, the Japanese government issued a statement voicing "sincere apologies and remorse" and acknowledging that Japan's imperial army was involved "directly or indirectly" in sexual slavery.

A left-leaning government in 1995 set up a fund to compensate former comfort women. But it used money collected through private donations, leading many victims to shun it.

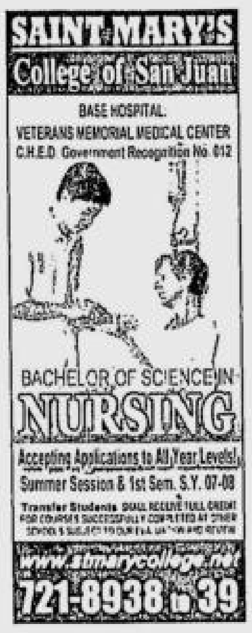
Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has said that he stands by the 1993 apology, although top aides such as Shoichi Nakagawa, the policy chief of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, have called on the government to reconsider it.

The US House resolution, which is supported by Korean-American groups, was proposed but never brought to a full vote when the Republican Party under President George W. Bush was in power.

The resolution was sponsored by Democratic Rep. Mike Honda, who spent part of his childhood in an internment camp for Japanese-Americans during World War II.

Honda, speaking in Congress last month, said he was promoting the bill because Japanese textbooks say little about the issue, and due to the attitude of ruling party lawmakers.

"The purpose of this resolution is not to bash or humiliate Japan. This is about achieving justice for the few remaining women who survived this atrocity," Honda said. *AFP*


SAINT MARY'S
College of San Juan
BASE HOSPITAL:
VETERANS MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER
C.H.E.D. Government Recognition No. 012
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN
NURSING
Accepting Applications to All Year Levels!
Summer Session & 1st Sem. S.Y. 07-08
www.stmarycollege.net
721-8938 to 39

RP appeals death sentence on OFW

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs yesterday appealed the decision of the Kuwaiti Supreme Court upholding an appellate court's verdict of death by hanging on a Filipino domestic helper for the killing of her employer.

DFA spokesperson Claro Cristobal said Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo had instructed the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait to do all it could to help Marilou Ranario.

"We are filing the appropriate appeal with the highest court (in Kuwait) to review and, hopefully, reverse its verdict," Cristobal told reporters at a press briefing. The Kuwaiti Supreme Court is known as the Court of Cassation.

Ranario, 33, was sentenced to death by hanging by a lower court in 2005 after it found her guilty of stabbing her woman employer.

During the trial, Ranario admitted to the crime, saying she did it because her employer "insulted her and her people."

But the Kuwaiti lawyers hired by the Philippine Embassy appealed the verdict in the appellate court, saying that Ranario was mentally ill.

Last year, Vice President Noli de Castro flew to Kuwait to seek clemency for Ranario.

He was accompanied by Department of Justice Chief Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño and Dr. Bernardino Vicente of the National Center for Mental Health, a forensic psychiatrist, who examined Ranario.

Kuwait hosts 73,000 overseas Filipino workers, 60,000 of whom are women and domestic helpers. *Cynthia D. Balana*

Election Campaign Materials

- Car Magnets
- Button Pins
- Stickers
- T-Shirts
- Plastic Banners
- Tarpaulin
- Posters & Flyers
- and many more...

Dinsmor Promo
Pls. Call: 400-8716
email: sales@dinsmorpromo.com

US solon goes to bat for vets' kids

HONOLULU—UNITED STATES SEN. DANIEL Akaka has reintroduced a bill to make it easier for the children of Filipino World War II veterans to immigrate to the US.

The Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act would reunite families that were separated because of the backlog in visa applications to the Department of State, said Akaka, a Democrat from Hawaii.

He introduced the bill on Friday. He had introduced the same measure last year, but it was part of a larger immigration bill that was not passed by the full Congress.

Family sponsored immigrants from the Philippines have the longest wait times among those seeking to enter the US legally before visas become available to them. The average wait for Filipinos to receive a visa is 20 years.

"Many of the Filipino veterans who now reside in the United States have been separated from their children for many years," Akaka said. *AP*

GENERICS
WHOLESALE PRICES AS OF JAN 20, 2007

Amoxicillin Cap 500 mg -100's	152.00
Ascorbic Acid Tab 500 mg -100's	64.00
Carbocisteine Cap 500 mg -100's	89.00
Cephalexin Cap 500 mg -100's	224.00
Ciprofloxacin Tab 500 mg -100's	245.00
Co-trimox Tab 400/80 mg -100's	62.00
Multi-Vitamin Cap -100's	98.00
Multivitamin Syrup 60 ml	14.20
Paracetamol Tab 500 mg -100's	28.00
Salbutamol Tab 2 mg -100's	19.00
Silymarine Cap 125mg (France) -50's	580.00
Vitamin B-Complex Tab -100's	58.00
Whey Protein (USA) 5 lbs	2,200.00

www.CNN-generics.com
Above prices applicable for Drugstores, Hospitals, Distributors, Companies & Organizations, etc.
OVER 400 products
CNN GENERICS DISTRIBUTION, INC. TEL 749-4266 / 749-5669 MOBILE (0920) 402-9905
2nd Flr. 459 Quezon Ave. Q.C. FAX 740-6417
CASH. NO MINIMUM ORDER. MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

idec
P16,500.00
Floor Mounted 3hp-P39,500
Floor Mounted 5hp-P55,000
Ceiling Cassette 3hp-P50,000
Ceiling Mounted 3hp-P39,500
Ceiling Mounted 4hp-P52,000
Free Installation!
Available at MC Home Depot:Call:2432610,2414731,09192482183
Cebu-032-3465498,Davao-082-2358821. www.idec-aircon.com

The Republic of the Philippines

hereby announces

TERMS OF THE 3-YEAR AND 5-YEAR BENCHMARK BONDS

	3-YEAR BENCHMARK BOND	5-YEAR BENCHMARK BOND
ISIN	PIBD0310B167	PIBD0512B658
PRINCIPAL ACCEPTED	PhP 46.7b	PhP 41.9b
PRINCIPAL SUBMITTED	PhP 46.7b	PhP 41.9b
SIZE OF BENCHMARK BOND	PhP 50.6b	PhP 46.9b

The Final Clearing Yields for each series of Eligible Bonds are as follows:

ISIN	Maturity Date	Coupon Rate	Final Clearing Yield	ISIN	Maturity Date	Coupon Rate	Final Clearing Yield	ISIN	Maturity Date	Coupon Rate	Final Clearing Yield
PIBD0307C099	3/11/2007	11.000%	3.20%	PIBD0508E494	5/5/2008	11.625%	4.70%	PIBD1009J120	10/14/2009	15.125%	5.45%
PIBD0707C225	3/23/2007	14.000%	3.25%	PIBD1008E056	5/28/2008	19.000%	4.75%	PIBD0509J569	10/28/2009	12.375%	5.45%
PIBD0507D442	4/11/2007	13.000%	3.30%	PIBD0308F121	6/2/2008	9.750%	4.75%	PIBD1009K137	11/25/2009	15.000%	5.45%
PIBD0707D233	4/19/2007	13.375%	3.35%	PIID0508F021	7/1/2008	10.375%	4.80%	PIBD1009L149	12/23/2009	14.875%	5.45%
PIBD0707E241	5/18/2007	13.875%	3.50%	PIBD0208G981	7/13/2008	8.375%	4.85%	PIBD0510A571	1/27/2010	11.500%	5.50%
PIBD0407E042	5/22/2007	10.625%	3.55%	PIBD0508G508	7/24/2008	9.875%	4.85%	PIBD1010B153	2/3/2010	14.750%	5.50%
PIBD1007E030	5/29/2007	13.875%	3.60%	PIBD0408G119	7/29/2008	11.000%	4.90%	PIBD1010C161	3/2/2010	14.625%	5.50%
PIBD0707F259	6/15/2007	13.500%	3.70%	PIBD0408H127	8/26/2008	11.750%	4.95%	PID1010CA170	3/30/2010	13.875%	5.50%
PIID0507F013	6/27/2007	12.375%	3.80%	PIBD1008H062	8/27/2008	20.000%	4.95%	PIBD0510D589	4/7/2010	11.500%	5.50%
PIBD0707G287	7/13/2007	14.000%	3.95%	PIBD0508J519	10/2/2008	10.250%	5.00%	PIBD0410D181	4/20/2010	6.500%	5.55%
PIID0307G045	7/16/2007	11.000%	3.95%	PIBD0408J134	10/21/2008	11.875%	5.05%	PIBD1010D186	4/27/2010	13.875%	5.55%
PIBD0507G458	7/25/2007	10.750%	4.05%	PIBD0708K322	11/15/2008	15.625%	5.10%	PIBD0710E348	5/8/2010	11.875%	5.55%
PIBD0707H275	8/3/2007	14.250%	4.10%	PIBD1008K077	11/26/2008	18.000%	5.15%	PIBD1010E196	5/25/2010	14.250%	5.55%
PIBD0407H058	8/14/2007	10.000%	4.15%	PIBD1008KT29	11/26/2008	17.800%	5.15%	PIBD1010F202	6/22/2010	14.125%	5.55%
PID0707HA288	8/24/2007	14.250%	4.15%	PIBD0409A140	1/13/2009	12.000%	5.25%	PIBD1010G210	7/20/2010	14.500%	5.55%
PIBD0707I292	9/21/2007	14.500%	4.20%	PIBD0509A520	1/15/2009	10.750%	5.25%	PIBD0510G595	7/21/2010	10.750%	5.55%
PIBD0507J464	10/24/2007	11.000%	4.25%	PIBD0309B132	2/17/2009	8.500%	5.25%	PIBD1010H228	8/10/2010	14.625%	5.55%
PIBD0407K063	11/13/2007	10.125%	4.30%	PIBD1009B084	2/25/2009	16.500%	5.25%	PIBD1010I236	9/1/2010	14.625%	5.60%
PIBD0307K109	11/16/2007	11.375%	4.30%	PIBD0509D536	4/6/2009	11.875%	5.30%	PIID0510H043	9/8/2010	10.625%	5.60%
PIBD1007K042	11/27/2007	22.875%	4.30%	PIBD0409E155	5/12/2009	10.750%	5.30%	PIBD0510I600	9/22/2010	10.875%	5.60%
PIBD1007KT12	11/27/2007	21.000%	4.30%	PIBD1009E090	5/27/2009	14.625%	5.35%	PIBD0510L615	12/1/2010	9.375%	5.60%
PIBD0707L305	12/14/2007	17.250%	4.30%	PIBD0309F143	6/15/2009	10.375%	5.35%	PIBD1010L261	12/21/2010	17.500%	5.65%
PIBD0408A072	1/8/2008	10.500%	4.45%	PIBD0509F543	6/17/2009	12.000%	5.35%	PIBD1011A278	1/18/2011	17.500%	5.65%
PIBD0508A470	1/23/2008	10.750%	4.50%	PIBD0409G162	7/14/2009	10.875%	5.35%	PIBD0711A354	1/22/2011	11.000%	5.65%
PIBD0708B313	2/8/2008	16.000%	4.50%	PIID0509G037	7/16/2009	11.750%	5.35%	PIBD0511C622	3/3/2011	8.500%	5.65%
PIBD0408B089	2/19/2008	10.875%	4.55%	PIBD0309G155	7/27/2009	8.750%	5.35%	PIBD0711D360	4/15/2011	12.000%	5.65%
PIBD0308C115	3/10/2008	10.500%	4.55%	PIBD0409H170	8/4/2009	10.500%	5.40%	PIBD0511F638	6/22/2011	10.625%	5.70%
PIBD0408D094	4/1/2008	11.375%	4.60%	PIBD0509H550	8/12/2009	11.875%	5.40%	PIBD0711G376	7/22/2011	12.000%	5.70%
PIBD0208D946	4/6/2008	6.500%	4.65%	PIBD1009I103	9/2/2009	15.000%	5.40%	PIBD1011J288	10/11/2011	16.500%	5.70%
PIBD0208E954	5/4/2008	6.500%	4.70%	PIB1009IA118	9/23/2009	15.500%	5.40%	PIBD0511J642	10/19/2011	7.250%	5.75%
								PIID0511L054	12/6/2011	5.875%	5.75%

This announcement is not an offer or a solicitation of offers. The Invitation is made solely pursuant, and subject to, the Offering Circular. When you make your investment decision, you should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in the Offering Circular and on any further announcements or communication that may be expressly authorized by the Republic. The Republic has not authorized anyone to provide you with information that is different. The Invitation does not constitute, and may not be used in connection with, an offer or solicitation by anyone in any jurisdiction in which such offer or solicitation is not permitted by law or in which the person making such offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation. A complete list of maximum clearing yields can also be found on the Bureau of the Treasury's website, www.treasury.gov.ph

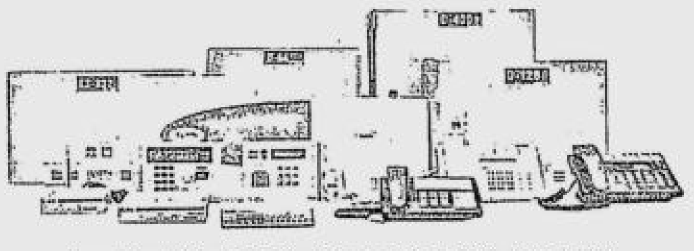
NEED SPACE???
Newly Constructed Factory/Warehouse with Office Spaces
Owned & Developed by **WINSOUTH INC.** For **LEASE!**
Spacious area of units ranging from 822 to 4,566 sqm.
Strategically located at 140 East Main Ave. Loop, Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna
Clean & with complete facilities
CALL US NOW!
Managed by INTERHOUSE CORPORATION
For more information, please call:
(02) 807-0353, (02) 842-2408 & (02) 842-1987
Or you may visit our website: www.interhouse.com.ph Email: ic_mktg@yahoo.com

Most Complete Line of Cleaning Equipment

AGUA
The Only One With Professional Water Filtration
GREASE PUMP
Air Operated
ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT for CARWASH BUSINESS
Now Only P39,500
P3,500
WH 3517E
WH 2111
Industrial High Pressure Washer w/ Automatic Stop System
Commando 707
1500 PSI/2.5 HP
With Complete Accessories
High Pressure Washer For Personal Use
FREE DELIVERY within Metro Manila With AFTER SALES SERVICE
Major Credit Cards Accepted. Deferred Payments Up To 24 Mos.
Exclusively Distributed by
CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL INCORPORATED
MAIN: 1851 M. OROSA ST., MALATE, MLA.
Tel. Nos.: 5244328 • 5240529 • 5245290
Sun Cellular: 0922-8825326 • 0917-7896670
BRANCH - 646 QUEZON AVE Tel. 7490581 • 7493709

CERT.No. Q10049
FORTH Digital Systems
www.forth.com.ph

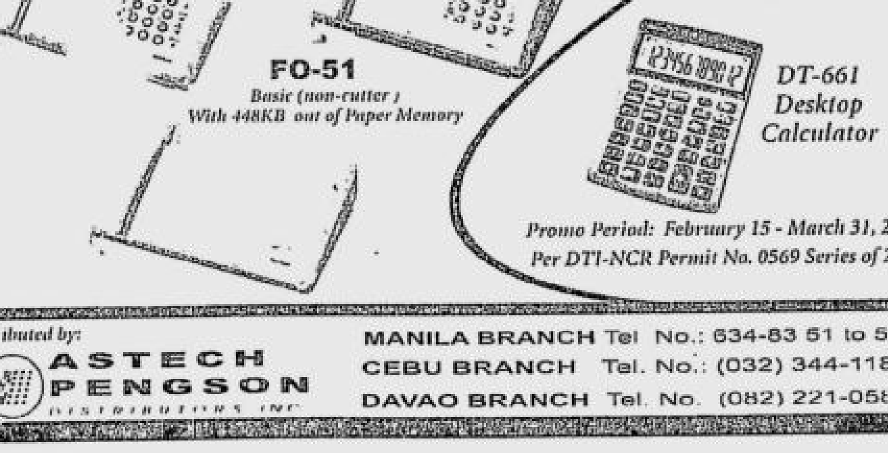
" No PABX System is too BIG or too Small for us"



Home & Small Office Mini PABX • Professional Digital PABX • Proximity Door Access System • Authorized Attendant (DISA Box) • GSM Line Mobile Converter

- we can upgrade your obsolete PABX with our Digital Auto Attendant & GSM Line Module.
- we have *"lease to own"* plans for your upgrades & new requirements.
- we have *17 years* experience of installation and services.
- systems for Home & Small Office starts at *P12,000.00* only (3x8 System)
- we do in-house cabling & installation for PABX, PC LAN and CCTV.

Exclusive Distributor:
SOGO International Inc
538 Hen. Lacuna cor. Zamora Sts., Bangkal, Makati City
Tel. Nos.: (632) 889-0873 to 75 • E-mail: sales@sogo.com.ph
Website: www.sogo.com.ph

The Smart Choice for Home and Office
SHARP
FAX MACHINE


Promo Period: February 15 - March 31, 2007
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0569 Series of 2007
Distributed by:
ASTECH PENGSON DISTRIBUTORS INC
MANILA BRANCH Tel No.: 634-83 51 to 59
CEBU BRANCH Tel. No.: (032) 344-1185
DAVAO BRANCH Tel. No. (082) 221-0585

CHINESE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MANILA

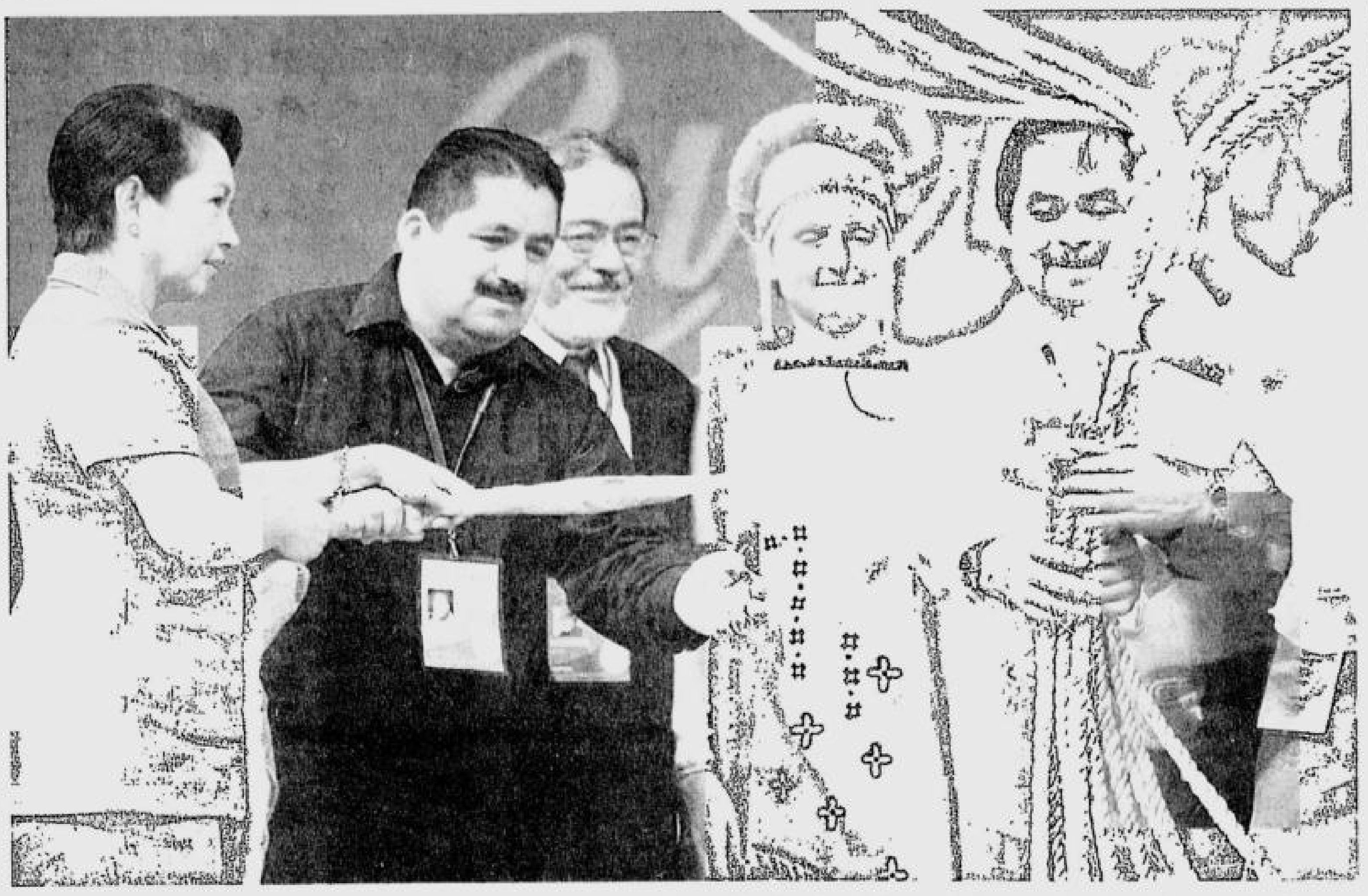
The first school using an American system of education with an English-Mandarin bilingual immersion.

- Academic Rigor
- Professional Excellence
- Extraordinary attention to the development of each child

Let us help your children discover their full potential, the possibilities are endless.......

INQUIRE:
815 – CISM (2476)
(0917) 815-CISM
www.cismanila.org

Upper McKinley Road, McKinley Hill, Fort Bonifacio, 1634 Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel.: +63(2) 815-CISM • email: info@cismanila.org



HANGING BY A STRING. President Macapagal-Arroyo pulls and tightens a "string of unity" to officially open the Second International Rondalla Festival. Known as "Cuerdas sa Panaghisua," the festival was held yesterday in Dumaguete City. LYN RILLON

BEFORE THEY GO-GO. Former President Joseph Estrada (center) endorses Francis "Chiz" Escudero (left) and Panfilo "Ping" Lacson during a meeting of leaders on Sunday in Greenhills, San Juan. (*Story on Page A1*)

Banks to curb financial bloodline to terrorists

From page A1

of the soon-to-be established Antiterrorism Council (ATC).

Under the bill, the ATC, among other functions, can freeze funds intended to finance the commission of terrorist acts pursuant to the provision of the amended Anti-Money Laundering Act.

"We take that to mean that the Antiterrorism Council will ask the AMLC to freeze these funds but under the existing laws, the AMLC needs an order from the Court of Appeals to freeze," AMLC executive director Vicente Aquino said in an interview with the INQUIRER.

Money laundering is defined as a crime whereby the proceeds of an unlawful activity are transacted, thereby making them appear to have originated from legitimate sources.

"Of course when you freeze, that already includes seizure. Usually the funds are deposited in a bank or any covered institution or even if these are in the possession of an individual or an institution, they can still be the subject of a freeze," Aquino said.

The existing AMLA identifies three acts of terrorism—namely murder, disruptive arson and hijacking—as unlawful activities or predicate crimes for money laundering. As such, funds and other assets arising from these may be the subject of inquiry or examination or even a petition to freeze or forfeit.

Forfeiture of funds

"In the antiterrorism law, there can be forfeiture of funds intended to be used to fund terrorist acts but forfeiture must await criminal conviction of the accused. It's also very clear in the bill that the AMLC is one of the support agencies to the Antiterrorism Council," Aquino said.

The antiterrorism bill includes 10 other acts of terrorism—piracy, rebellion, coup d' etat, kidnapping and serious illegal detention, crimes involving destruction, illegal possession of firearms, highway robbery as well as violation of controls on toxic substances and hazardous/nuclear waste, and atomic energy.

As to concerns that the proposed antiterrorism law can be abused since suspicious funds can be seized or frozen even when the owner is yet to be convicted, Aquino said existing laws can provide sufficient safeguards.

"The existence of 'probable cause' that the funds are related to the unlawful activity of acts of terrorism, that has to be established before the Court of Appeals can issue that freeze order," he said.

"I think the bill has sufficient safeguards and maybe that's one of the paramount reasons why it was called the Human Securities Act," he said.

Probable cause

While the proposed bill was silent on the definition of "probable cause," Aquino said various Supreme Court decisions provided ample jurisprudence on this.

The AMLA defines probable cause as—"facts and circumstances which would lead a reasonably discreet, prudent or cautious man to believe that an unlawful activity and/or a money laundering offense is about to be, is being or has been committed and that the account or any monetary instrument or property subject thereof sought to be frozen is in any way related to said unlawful activity and/or money laundering offense."

Bankers see no problems in taking the additional responsibility of curbing the flow of terrorist financing.

"Banks' risk management and compliance officers have already accepted this because they are already implementing the requirements under the AMLA anyway. We don't have to reinvent the wheel," said Land Bank of the Philippines treasurer Reevie Vergara.

The Philippine law against dirty money allows the government to look into any transaction—whether a single, series or combination—worth at least P500,000, stricter than the previous threshold of P4 million.

Suspicious deposits

This gave the authorities more leeway to probe suspicious cash deposits and investments, or defined as those "without any credible purpose or origin, underlying trade obligation or contract."

In the past, the authorities had to seek a court order before they are given access to suspicious bank accounts, in view of the bank secrecy law.

In relation to this, banks and financial institutions are required to comply with strict reporting, record-keeping and know-your-customer (KYC) requirements.

Roland Avante, treasurer at Chinatrust Commercial Bank Philippines, said it would not be difficult for banks to expand their monitoring of suspicious financial transactions.

"Even now, you have to know whom you're dealing with. You should know your client's cash flows and line of business," Avante said.

Monitoring movements

He noted that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas had required banks to beef up their capability to monitor large account movements which means they have to invest in sophisticated systems to detect suspicious transactions.

Aquino said while AMLC would not be part of the Antiterrorism Council, it would function as a support agency like the Philippine National Police and National Bureau of Investigation.

"So to us, the inclusion of the AMLC among the support agencies is a recognition of the vital role that the AMLC will play in relation to combating terrorism and terrorist financing," Aquino said.

"I believe the AMLA and the antiterrorism bill, once it becomes a law, can live together harmoniously in fact the AMLC and Antiterrorism Council can work together, complement and supplement each other," he said.

KATIPUNA
NO VOTE
I GLORIA'S
TERROR BILL!

MEMBERS of militant party-list groups stage a rally in front of the House of Representatives to oppose the passage of the antiterrorism bill. JOAN BONDOC

Another journalist

From page A1

groups as the most dangerous place for journalists after war-torn Iraq.

"This is again proof of how official inaction has bred a culture of impunity and emboldened those who seek to stifle freedom of the press and of expression in this country," said Jose Torres Jr., the union's chair.

The Publishers Association of the Philippines Inc. also denounced the killing and called on the Philippine National Police and the National Bureau of Investigation to conduct an immediate and credible investigation of the case. Pastolero was a Papi member.

Pastolero, who also worked as a broadcast journalist at dxCM of the University of Mindanao Broadcasting Network, was in the media profession for the last 30 years.

He edited several local weekly newspapers until he managed to come up with his own, the Lightning Courier.

"Let's not immediately conclude that his death had something to do with his being the publisher of a local paper," said Supt. Lumala Gunting, Shariff Kabunsuan police chief. "There could be other motives behind the killing that border on personal matters," Gunting said.

Land ownership dispute

Some relatives suspect the killing had something to do with a land ownership dispute. The NBI said Pastolero was one of the leaders of a homeowners group. Another leader, Zaldy Bayona, a freelance journalist, was killed in July 2004.

The latest killing took place as Philip Alston, UN special rapporteur for extrajudicial killings, and his team met with dozens of families of human rights victims in Davao City in Mindanao.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had invited the United Nations and some European states to help

her
pol
gro
clin

INCONSOLABLE. The family of slain jou
Kudarat in Mindanao. Pastolero, editor
unidentified gunman.

'Soldier's uniform a totem sy

From page A1

views with his father Hipolito and wife Marifel, was among the recent cases of human rights violations in west Cagayan as of the year 2006.

The cases documented by the Karapatan human rights organization include the alleged illegal arrest and detention by the Philippine National Police in Lasam of two farmers, Edwin Bilog and Danny Bulusan. The PNP refused to release them despite a court order.

On July 23, 2006, at the military checkpoint in Barangay Kagubatan, Rizal, soldiers reportedly fired at farmer Eloy Galang, accusing him of being a communist New People's Army guerrilla.

A local kagawad named Crisencio was allegedly arrested, detained and tortured by the military in November. Farmers Gabino Banggayan and Albert Palmea were reportedly invited for questioning by the 21st IB Philippine Army on Nov. 25, 2006, and were never seen again.

The fact-finding mission initiated by Taripnon, an ecology group in Cagayan composed of human rights and church groups NGOs and academics last month sought to study the impact of military operations on civilians in the province. The group included a Japanese exchange student, an American freelance journalist and a sociology professor working on her Ph.D.

But the military, in a show of physical force, turned the mission back although it had authorization from the Commission on Human Rights to conduct an inquiry.

'We cannot move'

On the drizzling midday of Jan. 20, Pascua and four soldiers stationed at the Sicalao Barangay Hall and Elementary School at Lasam stopped a jeepney heading toward the Asucenas' home in Barangay San Juan, Rizal municipality. Pascua said the area was a restricted zone.

Inside that jeepney were the members of the fact-finding team and Nelson's wife and father who, with their meager resources, were determined to bring his killers to justice.

Pascua ordered the foreigners in the team to surrender immigration documents. The team refused and was taken to Pascua's commander, Col. Francis Lardizabal. Heated discussions with him ensued.

The mission to San Juan fizzled. Instead, the group went to the Cagayan capital of Tuguegarao, where the Asucenas were interviewed at length.

"We cannot move when they are here, we cannot work that far because we are afraid of their thinking, you know the attitude of soldiers," said Marifel. That statement crystallizes the deeply embedded fear in the mind of a simple farmer's housewife even without a direct threat of violence.

Symbolic representation

The mere symbolic representation of the military appears to be the most efficient and most coercive form of terrorism. In the case of the Asucenas, terrorism is more than suicide bombers. It is about incarcerating one's consciousness in the seat of one's soul.

Pascua's squad, in its habitual display of violence and its symbols, connotes how terrorism in one's mind mutates to be self-generating and self-regulating with the aid of mere representations of violence, until finally the vitality and cheerfulness of one's soul is totally sapped to make one's mind and body docile.

The Asucenas and the peasants of San Juan need not be constantly raped or brutalized every day to make them more pliant. The mere image of power in a soldier's uniform or combat boots stamped on the muddy fields signifies that they are under the gaze of an all-knowing eye that penetrates even the privacy of their homes.

Totem of violence

Fear need not require a soldier with a powerful gun but only a scarecrow to shoo away the crows.

The presence of the Philippine Army in the remote communities somehow serves as a symbolic totem
in itself and a contraposi
western discourse on terro
its shallow preoccupation o
and act of force.

The US State Departmen
been in the forefront of th
rorism discourses, defines
the "calculated use of unlaw
to inculcate fear." The antit
pending approval by the H
cates these ideas. It inten
nores the capability of the
rorize.

The bill penalizes person
mit crimes defined in ex
ranging from unlawful p
firearms to rebellion, "the
and creating a condition of
and extraordinary fear
among the populace in ord
the government to give in t
ful demand."

Both discourses from th
Arroyo administrations n
fine terrorism as an act of
physical violence directed
state. It intentionally igno
bility of the state to terro
cealing the state as the anti
diverting the definition o
nonstate entity whether a
vidual or organization.

'The NPAs ... respect u

Based on Hipolito's acc
the military who acted as t
He cannot be blamed wh
prefers the NPA for being
over the military. "The NPA
for they respect us," sa
"They do not beat us, unli
tary."

In the final analysis, giv
tarized state the authority
terrorist and to pursue anti
homologous to giving the
macy to terrorize society.
rorism bill, or the "Human
of 2007," stretches this fur
ing the military the sole aut
fine what is terrorism.

This gives the military ne
judge who is a terrorist and
nate those branded as terr
the case of Nelson Asucena,
course to the rule of law.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

senatorial candidates
opposition candidates and
RAFFY LERMA

UP, UP AND AWAY. Senatorial hopefuls Ralph Recto and Joker Arroyo share a ride on a chopper owned by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile. They were on their way to join the rest of Team Unity for the proclamation rally in Cebu on Saturday.
LYN RILLON

shot dead in Sultan Kudarat

rnalist Hernani Pastolero grieves in their house in Sultan
n chief of the Lightning Courier, was shot twice in the head by an
AFP

government investigate the ical killings after rights ps and families of victims de- d to cooperate with the government panel created to look into the murders.

Local rights group Karapatan has claimed more than 800 people have been murdered since 2001 (the INQUIRER count is 273) but security officials said only 136 had been documented, blaming communist rebels for about 20 of these cases and admitting only six cases involving troops.

Alston was expected to end his 10-day mission in Manila this week. He has avoided the media and kept details of his meetings with rights groups and families of the victims secret.

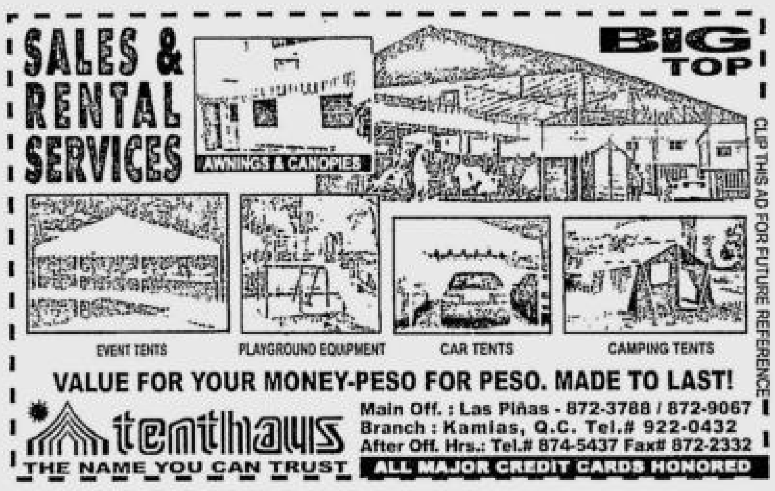
Police task force chief quits

Also yesterday, Police Deputy Director Avelino Razon announced he was stepping aside as chief of Task Force Usig which was formed by President Arroyo last year amid calls on her administration to stop the killings and bring to justice those responsible.

Razon said his resignation from the task force had nothing to do with the latest killing or the visit of Alston. He said he wanted to concentrate on administrative work and reform programs in the PNP.

Chief Supt. Geary Barias, PNP Directorate for Detection and Investigative Management (DIDM) chief, is set to replace Razon. Barias was Task Force Usig deputy chief and Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force (AIDSOTF) chief.

He also said Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno had asked for the replacement of Razon. Barias added that as of press time Ms Arroyo did not know of Razon's decision. *With reports from Alcuin Papa, Tina G. Santos, AP, Reuters*



SALES & RENTAL SERVICES
BIG TOP
AWNINGS & CANOPIES
EVENT TENTS
PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
CAR TENTS
CAMPING TENTS
VALUE FOR YOUR MONEY-PESO FOR PESO. MADE TO LAST!
tenthaus
THE NAME YOU CAN TRUST
Main Off. : Las Piñas - 872-3788 / 872-9067
Branch : Kamias, Q.C. Tel.# 922-0432
After Off. Hrs.: Tel.# 874-5437 Fax# 872-2332
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS HONORED
CLIP THIS AD FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

mbol of fear'

f violence on to the sm that is the display

which has se antiter- rrorism as ul violence rorism bill ouse repli- onally ig- ate to ter-

who com- ting laws, session of by sowing videspread nd panic r to coerce an unlaw-

Bush and rowly de- nental and gainst the s the capa- e, by con- rrorist and error to a vilian indi-

s'

nt, it was e terrorist. n he even lesser evil are better Hipolito. the mili-

g the mili- define a rrorism is ate legiti- he antiter- ecurity Act ier by giv- rity to de-

v power to o extermi- rists, as in vithout re-

The bill enables the military to enforce violence more aggressively and more efficiently with impunity because it lacks restraint from democratic accountability and concern for civil liberties and human rights.

How will the antiterrorism bill and the counterinsurgency campaigns help the Asucenas and other ordinary folk in poor peasant villages when it was the military that terrorized them?

Antiterrorism council

The greater problematic discourse is the provision for too much discretion given to the Antiterrorism Council (ATC) composed of Cabinet members that will implement the measure.

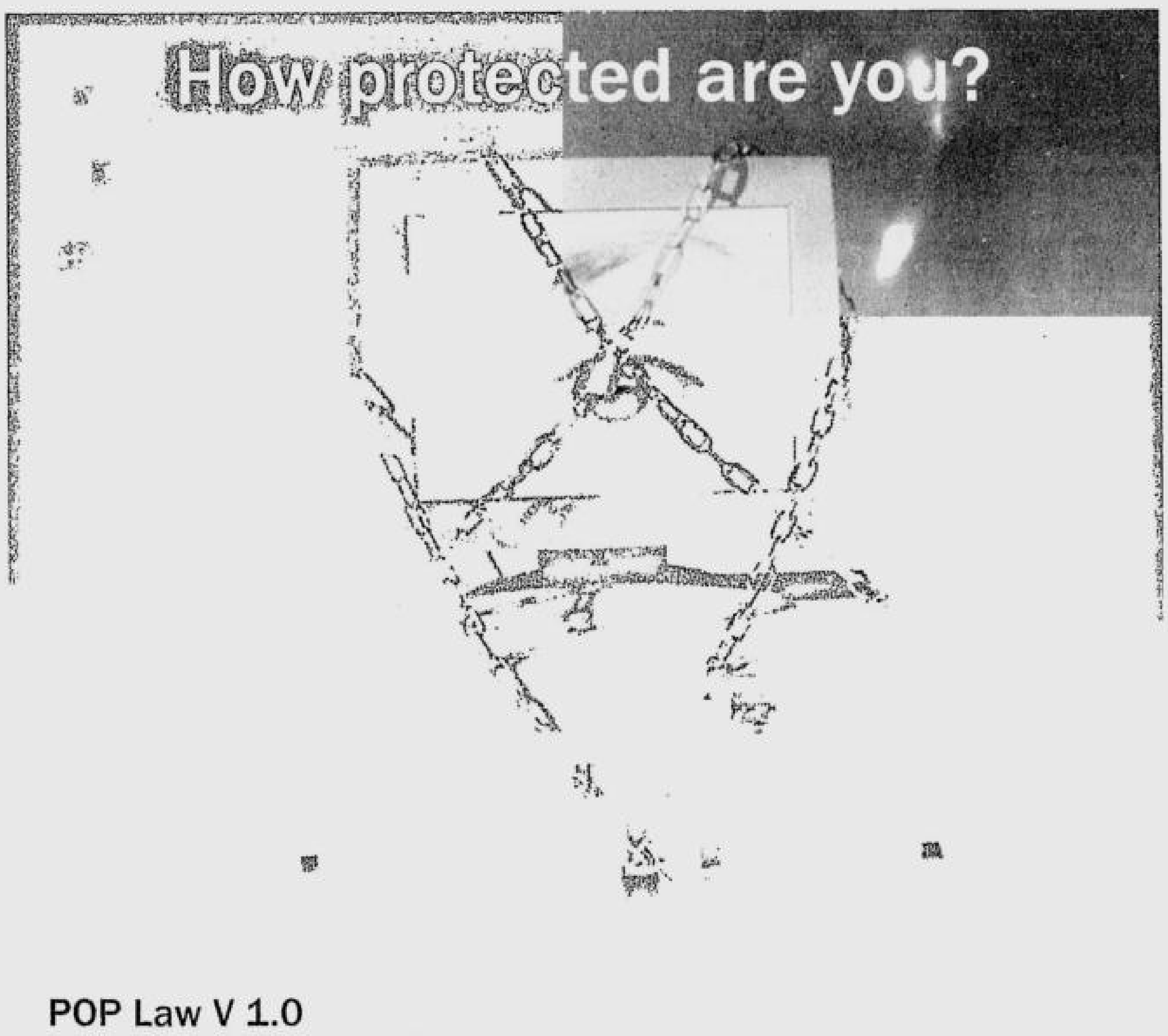
The bill is therefore bound for excesses and abuses of the new power given to the military. Because nowhere in this law can we find any provision for the protection of human rights within or during the conduct of antiterrorism campaigns nor any countervailing and checking measures on the authority given to the military.

Furthermore, the nature of the ATC is that of an exclusive executive-military institution that lacks any coordination with democratic-civilian institutions such as the Commission on Human Rights, the judiciary and even the media for checks and balances on its functions. Now the question is, what will happen when its operations impinge on civilian rights and welfare?

Vague terms

Moreover, as the bill provides, the ATC uses ambiguous and vague criteria without judicial guidance on the definition and delimitation of such concepts as "terrorist," "a terrorist activity" and "terrorist tendencies."

Any government can always define democratic popular actions directed against it such as freedom of assembly and freedom of expression as terrorism. Before the antiterrorism bill is signed into law, the Filipino nation should start hearing first the cries of more Hipolitos or Nelsons in the margins of Philippine society.



How protected are you?

POP Law V 1.0
Legalities In ICT Interactions
March 13

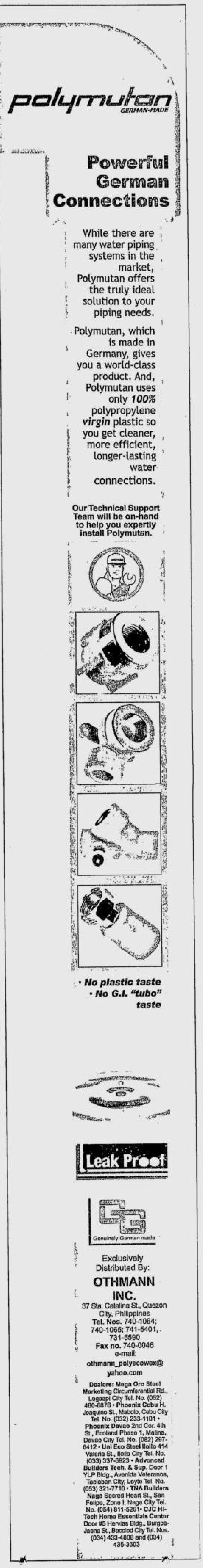
Computer Hacking
Forensic Investigator
April 23 - 27

Ethical Hacking and
Countermeasures Version 5.0
May 24, 25, 30, 31 and June 1

Are You Protected In Cyberspace?
A Hacking and Forensics Overview
March 1: 1 - 5 PM
FREE for the first 100 registrants!

For details and registration, call Sharon Llanes at 830.2043 or Maricar Camorongan at 830.2039 or write to cce-abib@aps.ateneo.edu. You may also visit and register online at www.cce.ateneo.edu.

ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
Center for Continuing Education
130 HV Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati 1200 Philippines
63(2)830 2050 • 63(2)810 7809
cce-abib@aps.ateneo.edu • www.cce.ateneo.edu



polymutan
GERMAN-MADE

Powerful German Connections

While there are many water piping systems in the market, Polymutan offers the truly ideal solution to your piping needs.

Polymutan, which is made in Germany, gives you a world-class product. And, Polymutan uses only ***100%*** polypropylene ***virgin*** plastic so you get cleaner, more efficient, longer-lasting water connections.

Our Technical Support Team will be on-hand to help you expertly install Polymutan.

- ***No plastic taste***
- ***No G.I. "tubo" taste***

Leak Proof

Genuinely German made

Exclusively Distributed By:
OTHMANN INC.
37 Sta. Catalina St., Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. 740-1064; 740-1065; 741-5401, 731-5590
Fax no. 740-0046
e-mail:
othmann_polyecowex@yahoo.com

Dealers: Mega Oro Steel Marketing Circumferential Rd., Legaspi City Tel. No. (052) 480-6878 • **Phoenix Cebu** H. Joaquino St., Mabolo, Cebu City Tel. No. (032) 233-1101 • **Phoenix Davao** 2nd Cor. 4th St., Ecoland Phase 1, Matina, Davao City Tel. No. (082) 297-6412 • **Uni Eco Steel Iloilo** 414 Valeria St., Iloilo City Tel. No. (033) 337-6923 • **Advanced Builders Tech. & Sup.** Door 1 YLP Bldg., Avenida Veteranos, Tacloban City, Leyte Tel. No. (053) 321-7710 • **TNA Builders Naga** Sacred Heart St., San Felipe, Zone I, Naga City Tel. No. (054) 811-5261 • **CJC Hi-Tech Home Essentials Center** Door #5 Hervias Bldg., Burgos-Jaena St., Bacolod City Tel. Nos. (034) 433-4808 and (034) 435-3603

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ISSN 0116-2642 INQUIRER Vol. 22 No. 74

OPINION

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/opinion
Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•Subscription Hotline 896-6000

Good start

EDITORIAL

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS IS STARTING the election period right by enforcing the ban on the carrying of firearms and the prohibition on the posting of campaign posters in places other than the designated common poster areas.

The campaign against the carrying of firearms netted 315 firearms and 182 persons as of Feb. 12. Judging from the many shootings and killings that have occurred in the past two weeks, many other people carrying firearms illegally may have escaped detection and arrest by the police. The Comelec and the police will have to enforce the ban more intensively and extensively as election day approaches to prevent violence and death in the battles for electoral posts.

The Comelec and the police have started their campaign against the illegal posting of campaign posters with great zeal and assiduousness. We have seen it all on TV: posters recently pasted on walls are immediately scraped off by the cleanup teams. We hope this campaign is not just a case of "*ningas cogon*," that it will not be like a prairie fire that will soon die out after a big, blazing start.

The rule on campaign posters, which was honored more in the breach than the observance in past elections, can be fully enforced if only the Comelec and the police would exercise political will. The enforcement of the rule would set an example for strict adherence to and enforcement of other rules governing elections. If the Comelec-police campaign can be sustained, this year's elections may yet turn out to be the "cleanest," in that there would be no posters, streamers and the like marring walls, buildings and trees. Can the Comelec and the police enforce the law until election day?

We hope that the coming elections would be "clean" in another sense, meaning honest, credible, unmarred by cheating, fraud and other political skullduggery. This requires first of all that the voters' lists be purged of fake voters. If some polling precincts have to be transferred, the voters concerned should be informed at least a week before election day, so that they would not be disfranchised.

Comelec officials and employees who are suspected of having participated in the cheating in the 2004 elections should not be designated to handle sensitive tasks in this year's elections.

Politicians should not be allowed to use guns and goons to influence the results of elections. The Comelec will have to act swiftly and place under its control provinces and cities where private armies are acting as enforcers of certain candidates. As of Feb. 16, seven election "hot spots" had been identified. More problem areas are expected to be discovered as election day draws near.

The coming elections are expected to be among the most bitterly and closely fought elections in the history of the country. So much is at stake in these elections, which is considered as a referendum on the legitimacy of the presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Administration officials are said to have resigned themselves to a possible opposition edge in the senatorial fight, but are concentrating most of their resources and manpower on the congressional fights. They are said to be aiming for a 90-percent win in the congressional elections, to prevent any impeachment attempt from prospering in the 14th Congress.

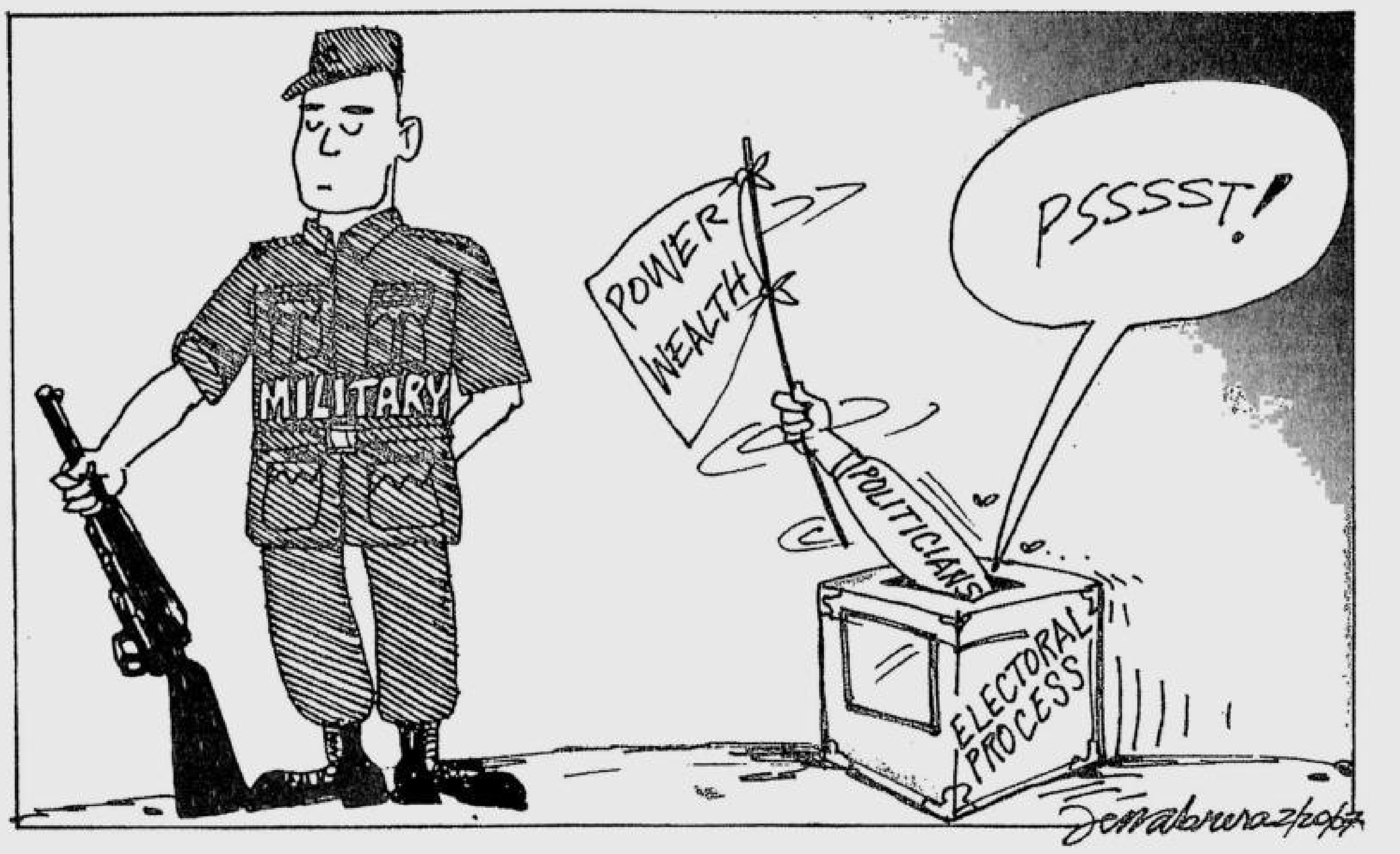
Given the very tight, bitter fight between the administration and opposition groups in May, the Comelec and the law enforcement forces will play a crucial role in ensuring that things do not get out of hand. The Comelec, in particular, has to make the right decisions and take the proper actions to ensure that the coming elections will be clean, peaceful and credible. To repeat, it has made a good start by enforcing the rule on campaign posters and streamers and the ban on the carrying of firearms. Now it should complete its task by enforcing the other election laws equally and fairly. Then it may yet be able to redeem itself somewhat from the shame and scandal of the P1.3-billion poll automation scam and the "Hello Garci" affair.

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
Editor in Chief **Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc**
Managing Editor **Jose Ma. D. Nolasco**
Associate Editor **Abelardo S. Ulanday**
Associate Editor for Readership **Rosario A. Garcellano**
News Editor **Artemio T. Engracia Jr.** • *Chief, News Day Desk* **Nilo B. Paurom**
Opinion Editor **Jorge V. Aruta**
National Editor **Pergentino B. Bandayrel Jr.**
Senior Desk Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**
Editorial Consultant **Amando Doronila**
Chief Photographer **Ernie U. Sarmiento**
Art & Design Director **Lynett A. Villariba**

Board Chairman **Marixi R. Prieto**
President **Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez**
Executive Vice President **David O. Valdes**
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing **Renato R. Reinoso**
VP for Advertising **Felipe R. Olarte**
AVP for Circulation **Sandy Simon R. Yap**

Readers' Advocate **Lorna Kalaw Tirol**
readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.



Buzzword for suicide

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

PUERTO PRINCESA, PALAWAN—HUDDLED along 17,460 kilometers of coastline, fisherfolk remain among the poorest in a country whose seas were once the marine counterpart of the Amazon forests in stunning richness of biodiversity.

"The Philippines paradoxically is simultaneously a hot spot and a mega-diversity country," UN Food and Agriculture Organization's Joaquin Cortez told an International Cooperatives Fisheries Organization seminar here. Seventeen mega-diversity nations have 67 percent of the world's biological resources. The Philippines and six of the 17 are in Asia. Our seas hold more than 950 commercial species of fish, plus 561 kinds of corals.

This wealth, however, is being dissipated relentlessly. Among the world's ecological hot spots, the Philippines ranks second to Magadascar, Oxford University's Norman Myers notes. Number three is a trio: Sumatra, Java and Borneo.

The world center of marine biodiversity is a "triangle," Cortez, a fishery planning officer, told 49 seminar participants. Luzon's northernmost tip is the apex. And it runs down to the Cocos Island of Australia, then bounces to Papua New Guinea. This "Indon-Malay-Philippine Archipelago" is "home to the top 10 percent of concentrated diversity."

This richness stems from Pleistoscene sea level changes over 55 million years, according to Drs. Victor Springer of the Smithsonian Institution and Kent Carpenter of the International Union for Nature Conservation. The shifting of tectonic plates jiggled land masses, with their plant, animal and marine life, a study made by Dr. Robert Hall of Southeast Asian plates indicates.

"Only Palawan, Mindoro and Panay existed then," Cortez said. Cebu and Negros emerged from the crumbling land masses, says the West Visayas Small Islands Survey. "Neither Tablas nor Siquijor was connected to the greater Pleistoscene islands."

Geological history's roll of the dice resulted in a mind-boggling variety of often unique plants and animals. And marine life abounded since the Philippines ended up with the most basins and many bays: Calauag, San Miguel, Tayabas, Sorsogon, Ormoc and Panguil, among others.

The biological diversity stunned scientists, from Silliman University's Dr. Arturo Rabor to Drs. L.R. Heaney and E.A. Rickhart. "Large numbers of species occur nowhere else in the world," they observed.

In Panglao, Bohol, University of San Carlos scientists, working with French counterparts, are continuing to turn up new species. "When I consider the work of Thy hands," the psalmist wrote, "what is man that Thou art mindful of him?"

Filipinos haven't drawn adequate sustenance from the seas and land, despite lavish providence. Less blessed nations, in contrast, built thriving fisheries while conserving this resource. Those who net fish for our dinners have little to eat. Eight out of every 10 coastal fisherfolk scrounge below the poverty line. Penury in seven fishing bays "is the highest in the country," a Department of Agriculture survey found.

Population, meanwhile, builds up on the "seam between land and water"—the coastlines. Six out of every 10 Filipinos today are crammed into 10,000 coastal barangays. They rely on increasingly polluted seas for about 10 percent of their protein. And when the catch falters, their need for protein is dumped on farms often eroded from deforestation.

Is this mess due to our welshing as stewards for our grandchildren? Did we become predators instead?

Only 4 percent of our reefs (aptly called "rainforests of the sea") remain in pristine condition today. Dynamited reefs in the Panay Gulf and Bohol Sea yield only four to five metric tons per square kilometer yearly compared to its original potential of 15 metric tons. "Malthusian overfishing," in the words of a Swedish Royal Academy study, depleted fish stocks in the Sulu Sea and Moro Gulf. In just four decades, almost 60 percent of mangroves were cut or asphalted over, notes Jurgenne Primavera, the leading Filipina scientist on wetlands.

Filipinos are innovative. But did we bargain for what the UN Environment Programme reported? "Squirting cyanide to stun fish originated in the Philippines and Taiwan in the 1960s... In the mid-1980s, more than 80 percent of all fish harvested in the Philippines and for aquarium trade were collected using cyanide." Poisoning decimates marine populations. "Misuse of cyanide spread to Asean countries, then leapfrogged to the Maldives, then to the Seychelles…"

They dub this trend as "unsustainable." It's the polite word for suicide. There has, therefore, been a growing recognition of the need for more than knee-jerk demands: whether for more patrol boats (the 96 Bantay Dagat vessels have helped) or yet more laws.

Top-down centralized measures failed to evolve into modern systems of fisheries management, Masahiro Yamao of Hiroshima University notes. And Asian nations are groping for systems where fisherfolk have a say on decisions.

Here, the need is for effective enforcement of the 1991 Local Government Code, 1998 Fisheries Code and 1997 Agriculture and Fishery Modernization Act where it matters: at sea and in fishing villages. As the Puerto Princesa seminar stressed, more attention must be given to decentralized management of coastal resources with fisherfolk co-managing with government. It's their next meal and their children's future at stake after all.

Ecological suicide is not inevitable. "The fault, my dear Brutus, does not lie in our stars / But in ourselves—that we are underlings."

(E-mail: juanlmercado@gmail.com)

Kiss of death

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I SAID IT AGAIN AND AGAIN THEN. AND THE fact that it wasn't the most obvious thing in the world for most of us can only say something about the extent of our pathological condition of lacking moral scruple.

That is the deadly consequence of the cheating in the nursing exam. I wrote several columns last year pleading with those who were deemed to have passed it to take it all over again—indeed to insist on it—because not to do so would be costlier. I said I understood how many of them felt, even though I knew that was a terrible presumption on my part as no one can ever know the depths of frustration and anguish someone who was been put in that position must feel.

Most of them probably came from poor families, which was why they took up nursing to begin with, so they could work in hospitals, preferably abroad, and rescue their families from hunger. Most of them probably worked hard for their test, shunning things that would distract them from their studies, which this karaoke-ravaged country has plentifully, just so they could pass it. Most of them probably had to go to great expense, including selling off family heirloom, just so they could go to Metro Manila and kick off their dream of finding heaven.

To go through all that again was torture. But what choice was there? The nursing candidates did not take the exam all over again and their whole batch would be tainted by the suspicion they were not fit to care for the sick. An albatross that would follow them the rest of their lives. Lest we forgot, I said, nursing was quite literally a matter of life and death. For us, it might only mean a matter of life and death in the sense that it offered a living with which to pluck ourselves and our loved ones from the jaws of death. But for others it meant life and death in the sense that patients could actually die from ignorance or negligence.

My worst fears were confirmed last week when the US-based Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools required the entire Philippine Batch 2006 to retake the leaked portion of the exams before they could even think to work in the US. No retaking of the exam, no VisaScreen certificate. That certificate is the key to the Promised Land, the document that allows a Philippine nurse to work in America.

But how else could things have gone? What else did we think could possibly happen? That our solution of excising the leaked portion of the exams—the logic was: two parts of the five-part exam were leaked, therefore just add up the grades in the (presumably) non-leaked portions and the problem would be solved—would appease anyone other than ourselves? That other countries would accept our way of putting things to rest to our satisfaction, a level of satisfaction that has plunged to the utter pits over the last few years? That the US, in particular, home of the free, brave and competent, would share our view that the best way to resolve cheating is to sweep it under the rug and say life goes on?

I said it before and I say it again: Life does not go on with cheating. Death does.

Comes now the one person who cheated her way to Malacañang proposing to remedy the problem. "I am saddened by the fact that the visa-hold has been employed on the deployment of our Filipino nurses as a result of the nursing exams of last year. I have instructed the secretary of labor to immediately look into the findings of the CGFNS and seek all forms of relief from the visa-hold and appeal for the reconsideration of the decision."

Like what can the secretary of labor do? Make *pakiusap* to the American officials to make *palusot* the nurses who passed only parts of a nursing exam, who may or may not be qualified to assist in surgical procedure or grasp the psychological aspects of care-giving, who may only be expected to get by through the fabled Filipino capacity for *oido*, or playing by ear? What can the secretary of labor do? Assure the American officials the decision to pass the nurses in exams tainted by cheating was a lapse of judgment but one that did not materially affect the quality of the graduates?

GMA is not the solution, she is the problem. The cheating in the nursing exams is the clearest sign that the culture of lying, cheating and stealing she has unleashed has seeped into this country's way of life. In fact, the truly astounding thing about that scandal is that it never became a scandal at all. Or it never attained scandalous proportions of the kind that brought public vituperation on the heads of those who wreaked it. All the public officials expressed were tremendous anxieties that the cheating would bring disrepute to, and jeopardize the future of, one of the country's chief dollar earners. None of them seemed unduly exercised by the fact that cheating, whether in nursing exams or in presidential elections, was a vile act deserving of the firing squad. None of the culprits was caught or punished.

For all the dire hassles it brings, the US decision to put its VisaScreen on hold for Batch 2006 serves the useful purpose of throwing cold water on our numb faces. It is a reality check, if not a rude awakening. It reminds us that elsewhere in the world cheating is regarded not as something bad only if you are caught but as something evil in and of itself. Elsewhere in the world, cheating is not something you manage to get around by various ruses when you are caught, it is something you pay for with your life, metaphorically or literally. Elsewhere in the world, cheating is not something that is amply rewarded with employment, or worse with the presidency, it is something that is severely punished with jail.

Elsewhere in the world, cheating is not called lapse of judgment, it is called the kiss of death.

Chinese New Year in Taiwan

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

TAIPEI—I FLEW TO THE TAIWANESE CAPITAL with my husband, to join former PCSO Chair Manuel Morato, who said he and Cecile and Heherson Alvarez had been invited by the Supreme Master Ching Hai International Association to celebrate Chinese New Year here last weekend. Morato, a friend of the Association's "Supreme Master," the Vietnamese-born Ching Hai, said, why don't you come along? Since we had never spent Chinese New Year abroad, we thought it would be interesting to experience it in Taiwan.

Association officials drove us from the Taipei airport for nearly two hours to the town of Shihu, in the southwestern part of the island, to their headquarters in a sprawling wooded mountain meditation and retreat haven. On hand to greet us was the dynamic Ching Hai, 54, called simply "Master" by her followers, who was getting ready to welcome thousands of what she refers to as her "students" from all over the world.

* * *

On Chinese New Year's Eve last Friday, we joined them in the Shihu Center's fairyland-like gardens as they waited for the countdown to midnight in 18-degree weather. They all sprawled on the grounds in groups, enjoying a lot of camaraderie and all-vegetarian barbecues (made to look and taste like hotdogs, chicken and meat) and washed down with nonalcoholic champagne and beer, and fruit juices! Fireworks were strung up in a long line and looked like cascading springs of light. We Pinoys chuckled as we noted how we had considerably improved on these Chinese inventions with our "super-lolos" and "Judas belts."

* * *

On New Year's Day, Ching Hai, dressed in the traditional Chinese empress' costume, was borne on a gilded litter and greeted her followers from around the world, who had lined up along the road, garbed in their traditional costumes. The vivacious and witty leader was obviously adored and loved by her followers, who squealed and chanted her name as she stopped at various food stalls along the way.

Later that morning, the throngs wound up in a huge tent where traditional dances were shown. Ching Hai later gave her inspirational message to the many families about being good parents and family members, and exorcising all influences and feelings that block their closeness to the Lord. The session ended with her people giving out the traditional red envelopes for good luck.

* * *

The throngs later returned to the tent in the evening to honor former Senator Alvarez and Morato for their role in helping thousands of Vietnamese refugees obtain asylum in the Philippines during the Ramos administration. The Vietnam-born Ching Hai, who worked for the refugees since South Vietnam's fall in 1975, awarded them the "Shining World Leadership Award." Former President Ramos was invited to be the lead honoree, but he was said to be co-chairing an annual world conference in China. A huge photo of him dominated the center of the stage.

A short documentary narrated how Morato worked hard to put Ching Hai in contact with officials of the Ramos administration, who ironed out kinks in its compassionate decision to allow the boat people to stay, when other nations were turning them back to sea. Alvarez, on the other hand, sponsored the bill that enabled FVR to act with dispatch on the legal problems that decision entailed. He had been in exile in the US for 14 years and had benefited from the Refugee Law authored by Sen. Ted Kennedy. Alvarez pushed for a similar bill for the boat people.

It was most touching to see dozens of Vietnamese from all over the world come forward to offer flowers to the two Filipino awardees, while Ching Hai herself offered a bouquet before Ramos' photo. At that point the guru, who grew up in the thick of the Vietnam War, became quite emotional and shed tears.

* * *

Ching Hai was in Manila last November as one of the international awardees of the Gusi Peace Prize, which recognized her for her dedication to the plight of the poor and suffering as well as her philanthropy. The Gusi Prize, established by the late Capt. Gemeniano Javier Gusi, a World War II guerrilla, recognizes individuals and groups around the world who have contributed "toward the attainment of peace and respect for human life and dignity." Ching Hai's group is no stranger to RP, as it has come to the Filipinos' succor during disasters, including the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo and super-typhoon Reming.

* * *

The petite, attractive guru, who is a British citizen, established many years ago this movement that has since attracted people from all walks of life and various religions. Today the association has more than 100 "centers for meditation" in 70 countries around the world.

What Ching Hai preaches is a philosophy based on the "Quan Yin Method," that she's said to have imbibed while in seclusion in the deepest reaches of the Himalayas during her younger years. She teaches a life of spiritual introspection that will enable a person to find his own "greatness." She preaches in a bubbly way about being true and compassionate toward one's fellowmen, abandoning negative thoughts and feelings and highlighting only the positive, in order to enjoy the blessings life offers. (This accent on good social conduct reminds me of Buddhism.) She also imposes on her followers enormous physical discipline: a strict but creative vegetarianism and no alcohol or smoking. (Next: The fabulous Palace Museum.)

* * *

Today, Feb. 20, four prominent election lawyers—Romulo Macalintal, Sixto Brilliantes, Leila de Lima and Al Agra—will conduct a seminar on election laws, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza, Galleria Manila. For more information, call Lourdes Panganiban at 0917-858-9961.

Ads and impressions

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

KIKO PANGILINAN, AKA SEN. FRANCISCO Pangilinan, e-mailed (via Multiply) a copy of his latest campaign ad, called "Kiko: K Mo sa Senado." "K" in this case apparently stands for the three K's of his advocacy: *kabataan* (youth), *kabuhayan* (employment) and *katarungan* (justice).

The ad is obviously aimed at youthful voters, with a rousing and catchy jingle performed by a rock band, images of Kiko among groups of young people, with subliminal images of Kiko and his attractive family, from wife Sharon to children KC, Frankie and Miel.

I knew the unofficial campaign period had begun months ago when I spotted Kiko in a TV ad for a brand of instant *pancit*, which Sharon endorses. Though he would appear from time to time on Sharon's TV show or concerts, usually for special occasions like birthdays or Valentine's, the senator had tried to distance himself from his megastar wife's entertainment activities. For Kiko to agree to appear in a commercial, which he gained for him valuable air time and exposure, then, signaled not just that he was launching his bid for re-election, but that he was willing to cross boundaries he had once observed this time around.

I'm glad, though, that Kiko and the Liberal Party have finally resolved the dust-up over his "adoption" by the Genuine Opposition, even if Kiko himself insists he remains essentially an "independent." Independents have had a spotty record in our political history. While so-called "Third Force" candidates like Raul Manglapus foundered in the polls, Miriam Defensor Santiago, who ran for president under her own fledgling party, almost made it, astonishing observers with the response she generated from the youth. Just as unexpected was Raul Roco's strong showing in his first run for the presidency, showing that he had struck a chord among young, "thinking" voters. Let's hope that constituency comes through for both Kiko and Roco's widow Sonia, both of whom belong to the same GO ticket.

* * *

KIKO's ad reminded me of other political advertisements that are littering the media landscape these days, most of them are on TV.

Another putative "independent" adopted by the GO slate is Manny Villar, who showed the strength of his political organization as well as the depth of his pockets with an early pre-campaign period awareness campaign.

I'm of two minds about his choice of theme for the awareness campaign: violence against women. Celebrity women address the viewer directly, declaring their belief that women should be respected and looked after, not hurt or abused, with Villar bringing up the tail end and exhorting the public to respect women and support efforts to bring an end to violence against women. The ad ends with a phone number to be called to report cases of abuse.

While I'm happy that Villar chose the issue of VAW to launch his re-election bid, bringing the issue to the attention of the public as well as of policymakers and law enforcers, I'm at the same time uncomfortable with the "politicization" of the issue, which is only partially addressed by legislation and law enforcement. As we have discovered, especially with the Subic rape case, a large part of the problem is social and cultural, with mind-sets blaming the women for somehow provoking the violence, whether by dress, deed or defiance.

Political ads may raise awareness and support, but they may also lead to premature impressions that the issue has been "resolved" and our officials are on the ball. This is, as we all know, just so much B.S.

* * *

THERE'S something creepy about Prospero Pichay's TV spots, where poor and "ordinary" citizens are shown verbalizing their wishes for a better life and the candidate pops up unexpectedly, promising to fulfill those wishes.

In one ad, a poor family—mother and child, if I remember right—talk about their dream of having enough food on the table, when Pichay suddenly emerges from nowhere, promising to make that dream come true.

Maybe it's just me, but Pichay's stiff smile and gleaming eyes make him look downright dangerous and I could only offer an alternative script, with the woman wishing that strange men would stop appearing in her home uninvited.

And what's with Mike Defensor's "Tol!" ad? The TV spot shows different folks, including some fairly well-known entertainers, suddenly brightening and calling out "Tol!" (short for "Utol," a slang word for "brother.") The next clip shows Defensor smiling a broad but stiff smile, his braces gleaming, and waving back at the people calling out to him.

But why is he just waving and smiling and not approaching the people? Is he meant to be seen as stand-offish, or are the ads supposed to increase his "desirability?" Mixed and confusing messages all around.

* * *

THEY weren't political ads, but interviews with two spouses of candidates are instructive. The TV reporter was doing a story on how the wives of young senatorial candidates were helping their husband in their campaigns, and she interviewed Audrey Tan Zubiri, wife of Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri, himself a media figure; and the wife of another congressman, Alan Peter Cayetano.

Tan-Zubiri was a revelation. Despite her social standing, she was shown speaking in flawless and informal Filipino, dressed down in jeans and T-shirt, and exuding a down-to-earth approachability. Ms Cayetano, meanwhile, was quoted as saying that instead of joining campaign sorties, she preferred to meet with supporters at home. She was personable enough, but her words portrayed her as stand-offish.

Both wives could prove to be valuable assets in a campaign, but again, wrong impressions could be created and reinforced through the media if one isn't careful.

Asean must cut gas emissions

COMMENTARY

Jasper Inventor

AS WE MARK THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF the Kyoto Protocol, the specter of climate change makes it imperative for the developing nations of Southeast Asia to build their economies on the foundation of a sustainable energy supply, curbing and limiting its collective greenhouse gas emissions.

Southeast Asia collectively ranks third highest in greenhouse gas emissions among developing countries, after China and India. Under the business-as-usual scenario of the International Energy Agency World Energy Outlook Projection, with 2003 as the base year, East Asia's carbon dioxide emissions will increase 350 percent by 2050. This is an unacceptable scenario in the face of warnings issued by scientists about the dire consequences if the total global greenhouse gas emissions are not cut to half by mid-century.

During the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period, developed-country signatories committed to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 5.2 percent from their 1990 levels within the period between 2008 and 2012. The signatories will gather in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2007 to negotiate the second phase of the agreement, covering the period between 2013 and 2017. Within this timeframe, industrialized countries need to reduce their CO_2 emissions by 18 percent from 1990 levels, and then by 30 percent between 2018 and 2022, with a target of 75-percent reduction by mid-century. Only with these cuts do we stand a reasonable chance of keeping the average increase in global temperatures to less than 2°C, beyond which the effects of climate change will become catastrophic.

From a moral, legal and practical perspective, the initial burden of emissions reductions has to fall on industrialized countries. However, developing countries in Southeast Asia must stabilize its carbon dioxide emissions by choosing renewable energy and enhancing energy efficiency while at the same time increasing energy consumption through economic growth. Southeast Asia must not follow a path that would further increase its greenhouse gas emissions.

> The consensus among experts is that fundamental changes in the way we use energy should happen within the next 10 years in order to avert the worst impacts of climate change

To make this happen, Southeast Asia must sever the strong correlation between economic development and the use of fossil fuels, particularly coal.

Recently, Greenpeace and the European Renewable Energy Coalition (EREC) released a report titled, "Energy [R]evolution: A sustainable World Energy Outlook." The report shows that it is economically feasible to cut global CO_2 emissions by almost 50 percent within the next 43 years. It concludes that a massive uptake of renewable energy sources is not only technically possible but, combined with the smart use of energy, it can deliver half of the world's energy needs by 2050.

Using the same base year as the IEA report, the Energy Revolution also says that for Southeast Asia to make a difference in the fight to save the climate, the developing nations in the region must cut its carbon dioxide emission by as much as 30 percent by 2050.

The future of renewable energy development in the region will strongly depend on political choices by both the individual governments and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean). Time is running out, but the right policy support for the massive uptake of renewable energy is still at the bottom of Asean's priorities. The group must set strong renewable energy targets and policies and develop comprehensive energy-efficient measures to bring down fuel consumption even as the region sustains economic development.

The consensus among experts is that fundamental changes in the way we use energy should happen within the next 10 years in order to avert the worst impacts of climate change.

There is overwhelming scientific consensus that climate change is happening, that it is caused in large part by human activities (such as burning fossil fuels), and that if left unchecked, it will have disastrous consequences for the developing countries of Southeast Asia.

For the sake of a sound environment, political stability and thriving economies, it is the responsibility of Asean and its governments to commit to a truly secure and sustainable energy future—a future built on clean technologies, economic development and the creation of millions of new jobs.

Jasper Inventor is the climate and energy campaigner of Greenpeace Southeast Asia.

Nurses for the day

YOUNG BLOOD

Celine Anne A. Go

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

THE WORDS "NURSE" AND "CARE" WILL FOREVER BE intertwined. As I have learned in "Fundamentals of Nursing," ours is a caring profession. It should be practiced with an earnest concern for the art of care and the science of health. Later I would also learn that the concerns of nurses (and soon-to-be nurses) extend beyond the illness; we are trained to be more concerned with the sick, the individual.

My experiences in the hospital wards have taught me to provide every kind of care to my patient—from taking vital signs, morning care, bedside rounds, medicine administration to making small talk that a patient values so much. I also treasure such moments, for it is then that I feel that I am truly touching someone's life.

But who provides care when it is the nurse who is in need?

Many of us have felt the downside of being a "care-provider," even as students. On any given day, you could wake up in the morning beside your Anatomy-Physiology textbooks that you didn't finish reviewing for the quiz scheduled that same morning. You find a hearty breakfast laid out for you, but you have no time or appetite to eat it. You gather your paraphernalia, and realize you forgot your name plate when your are already on a jeepney. You wear your white uniform—only to see it splashed with mud as you cross the flooded street in front of your school. You run to the ward, and then realize you have adjusted your watch 30 minutes ahead. You check the chart, but all you see is your assigned room number beside an empty slot. Your clinical instructor tells you you have to make up for wearing an incomplete uniform (you forgot your name plate, remember?). Then you have to put on your brightest smile before you knock on the door of the person you have to take care of for the rest of the morning.

Who said it was easy to be therapeutic? Even our emotions sometimes get in the way of our work. It becomes even more difficult when we have to deal simultaneous with profession-related problems and conflicts in the family, relationships, grades, projects, money and the thing they call depression. Many times, we have to try to forget that we, too, have our own problems, just to ease other people's health problems.

It was in the pediatric ward (the least likely place it should have occurred) where I faced an inevitable situation in the nursing profession. Ruth, who was occupying bed number 316 C, had been diagnosed to have lupus. She was my patient.

The first thing I did before I saw her was to refresh my knowledge about lupus. I expected to see a patient with facial rashes and all the signs of deterioration caused by the disease. I met a girl who was just 15, not really much younger than myself. Lupus had stunted Ruth's physical growth and emotional maturity.

We talked about the things girls love to talk about: high school friends, terror teachers, biology lessons, hair accessories, crushes and a lot more. We even talked about her medications: it was her duty to memorize the name and dosage, and it was my role to inform her of the action of the drug. Ruth knew that she was very sick, but her personality and her parents' attitude made it easy for me to forget that she did not have a very long time to live.

Just three weeks after we met, Ruth died. I was not on her bedside when she went. I didn't even get the chance to talk to her bereaved parents. But the impact on me was more than what I can describe. I ended up crying and doubting if I had what it took to finish my studies. I didn't know if I could face another patient and help her get well again. I was afraid to become close to any of my patients again. I didn't want to feel the same pain if something like that should happen.

But I suppose it was God's plan for me to meet Ruth, to be close to her, to feel the loss, to cry so much, and then learn from the experience. It was with His guidance that I learned about life and about death. He even gave me my support group, my clinical instructors and my classmates. From them, I got the assurance that it was okay to cry and to feel the pain; it was a sign of genuine care, they said.

My family, my friends and loved ones were also there to listen and to make me see the wonder of touching someone's life and being touched at the same time. They helped me handle my feelings so that I could direct them toward gaining emotional maturity. All these people were there to care.

The problems we have experienced inside and outside the classroom and in the ward are but a foretaste of things to come. We are still in the process of learning how to provide holistic care to our patients even as we ourselves need the care we are being taught to provide. But there will always be people with whom we can share the hardships, those who could be our "nurses for the day." And there is always Someone Up There who will guide us through everything.

Celine Anne A. Go, 19, is a third year nursing student at the University of Santo Tomas.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Plus factor

"Popularity was never a consideration. It's credibility and capability to advocate the platform of the government of the administration. Being popular is just a plus for him."

—Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano, Team Unity spokesperson, referring to actor Cesar Montano's inclusion in the administration's senatorial line-up

Muzzling enemies

"The bill is not about national security because we do not have terrorism problems. The bill is about legitimizing Gloria Arroyo's muzzling her political enemies."

—Sen. Anna Consuelo "Jamby" Madrigal, objecting to the passage of the Antiterrorism bill

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

A plea for Pacman

I AM ONE OF THE COUNTLESS FANS OF Manny Pacquiao. I am extremely appalled to know that he is throwing his hat into, perhaps, the dirtiest, though most gainful, arena known to present-day Filipinos: politics. I cannot imagine, indeed, what else in life he wants, what kingdom he yet aims to conquer, what throne he yet desires to ascend. It is definitely not fame, because locally and globally he is more popular (in the truest sense of the word) than the President of the Philippines. Neither could it be wealth. For, whatever earnings he may expect as mayor or congressman would clearly be a pittance compared to what he is earning now—and earning with a clean conscience at that.

He wants to serve his countrymen? Oh, his own mother could not have been more right when she said that there are many other ways to do that—and, if I may add, through relatively less hypocritical ways. For example, I know he knows how much the great Gabriel "Flash" Elorde, in his lifetime, had helped to "increase his tribe" and make boxing, as we know it now, the most sought-after profession of the poorest of the poor from the countryside.

Once upon a time, he was one of them; there is no reason why he can't take off from or better Elorde's achievements. Or, is it power he covets? Alack, only he who has wronged others needs power to protect himself from reprisal. Ask Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the most powerful Filipino alive today, if she is happy where she is now and she will surely say no. Well, unless she lies again.

Manny should wake up: He is only being used by dirty politicians around him, to advance their own self-interests. He should be careful not to be lured into their lair; they have set up hidden traps there. It does not take more than plain common sense to discern what they are really up to.

To each one of us, the Almighty God has assigned a sphere around which to move and grow. Even the planets in space would crumble to pieces if they went beyond their orbits. Yes, Pacquiao is destined to be a boxer, not a politician; he should make the most of it.

Do not run, Manny; for heaven's sake, please don't! Your fans' hearts would bleed if you went astray.

—DR. BASILIO B. AMBIDA,
Ambida Dental Clinic,
Resurreccion St.,Poblacion,
Bauan, Batangas

JPEPA not worth sacrificing Filipinos' right to safe environment

WE STRONGLY APPEAL TO THE MEMbers of the Senate to seriously study the implications of the Japanese-Philippine Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa), which was signed by President Macapagal-Arroyo and Japanese Prime Minister Koichiro Koizumi on Sept. 9, 2006 in Finland.

The above agreement will make the country a "trash can" of Japan's hazardous wastes as it will allow the entry of incinerator ash, residues which have mercury and arsenic, sewage sludge, clinical wastes and other toxic wastes. The agreement contravenes our own 1987 Constitution which guarantees the people's right to a balanced and healthful ecology. It likewise violates laws, such as Republic Act 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act) and Republic Act 6969 (which bans the entry of hazardous wastes).

The government is boasting that the Jpepa will be a big boost to our economy as it will open up a larger room in Japan's imports and markets for our pineapples, bananas, tuna and other products. It also says that our tourism, medical and other service-related industries will benefit. While this may be partly true, this should not be used as an excuse for the Philippine government to surrender the Filipino people's right to a safe environment.

—RAFFY REY HIPOLITO,
advocacy officer, EcoWaste Coalition,
320 Eagle Court Bldg.,
Matalino Street, Quezon City

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

LETTERS

Breastfeeding: giving our children a fighting chance

I SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT OF Health in its struggle to eradicate malnutrition by promoting breastfeeding and regulating advertisements that promote breast milk substitutes.

I am appalled that the Supreme Court granted the petition of the Philippine Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP) for a temporary restraining order on DOH's implementation of a rule expanding the ban to cover advertisements of milk products for children up to two years of age. I am further disturbed that this TRO, in place since August last year (and ironically issued during Breastfeeding Week), has not been lifted.

Meanwhile, the milk companies continue to spread lies about their products, claiming that these help develop high IQ, high EQ, strong immune systems and good eyesight. Just recently, a milk brand claimed that it can even help babies with diarrhea.

As a working mother, I can say that there's a dearth of correct information on the benefits of breastfeeding and on the dangers of bottle-feeding in this country. PHAP and its members only seek to further undermine breastfeeding by providing inaccurate information and lopsided choices to mothers who seem to have none.

Also, mothers need more support in the workplace and the communities for breastfeeding to be successful. In a country where every year 82,000 children die before their fifth birthday, breastfeeding is the most inexpensive way for our children to survive.

I urge the Supreme Court to lift its TRO on the advertising ban. Let the DOH do its job of implementing the Milk Code and its revised implementing rules and regulations. Stop the milk companies from making false claims and further endangering our children's lives. Give our children a fighting chance.

—MARIVIC BARRIGA-BABIANO,
marivic_barriga@yahoo.com

Journalism is a devotion, not just a profession

THE HEADLINE SOUNDED ALARMING. "RP, Afghanistan most deadly for journalists." (INQUIRER, 2/7/07)

But the story was not new. As a journalism student, I have been repeatedly told about the danger that goes with the profession I have chosen. It is actually a long-standing joke in our class that part of a journalist's job is to get killed; that the true measure of being a good journalist is to get killed in the line of duty. But today, this is no longer a joke, it is a fact.

Often, the journalists who are killed are the ones who expose shenanigans in government. I would assume that an increase in the number of journalists killed in a specific country indicates that its government has a lot to hide. And those who are hiding something kill the journalists who know too much. But according to MV Pylee, professor emeritus in communication, "To ensure governance that is corruption-free, delivering and caring, the administration has to be constantly under the surveillance of an institution which acts as the watchdog of the society....the press, in particular, is best suited to perform this task." This is one task the press must do. Ironically, this task can lead a journalist to his death.

Some people think that killing the journalist will put closure to an issue. Nothing can be further from the truth. Such killings, more often than not, give rise to new issues instead.

Journalists will continue to do their job whatever obstacles and dangers they'll face. Journalism is a devotion, not just a profession.

Helen Thomas of the White House Correspondents Corps. said, "The work of the press is indeed risky, but if the press won't do it, who will?"

By the way, at least 70 more graduates from my school will be added to the ranks of journalists. This is a reminder that the journalism profession is not going to die. So, the masterminds in the killing of journalists should think about this. Journalists will continue to grow in number. Who knows, their killers might run out of bullets one day.

—JAMES P. LOPEZ,
james_loljian06@yahoo.com.ph

Call for election summit a propaganda ploy

LAST WEEK, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARroyo called the Commission on Elections, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police and all the political parties to a summit to ensure peaceful and honest elections in May. It is just as well that the CBCP rebuffed this propaganda ploy. The fact is that all that is needed is for Comelec to do its job right and for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to refrain from cheating. Then we can be sure of credible elections this year.

Upon assuming the presidency in January 2001, GMA said she did not aspire to be a great president, just to be a good one (certainly not a lying and cheating one), and she assured the nation of clean and honest elections in 2004. The May 2004 elections turned out to be the dirtiest, such that until today, the allegations that GMA stole the presidency persists.

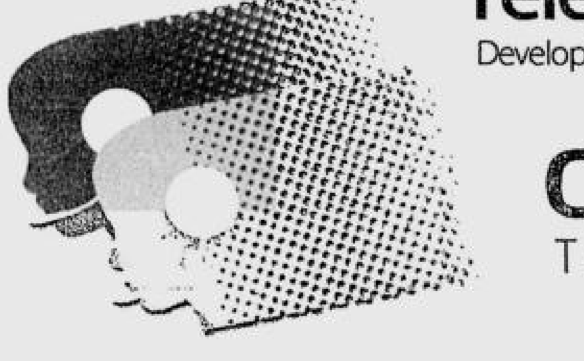
About the same time GMA made the summit call, she appointed as defense secretary former PNP Chief Hermogenes Ebdane, who is said to have kept former Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano in hiding at the height of the Hello Garci tape controversy.

The appointment of Ebdane, a military man, also runs counter to the recommendation of the Feliciano Commission created by GMA to investigate the Magdalo mutiny. The commission said that the defense portfolio should not be given to a non-military person. Furthermore, Ebdane seems to have a problem understanding the MOA his predecessor (former Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz) signed with the Comelec regarding the non-involvement of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the electoral process.

Also, the Melo Commission, which GMA recently created to look into extrajudicial killings, released last week its report. GMA has not made public full report, but she has invited international groups to join the investigation.

Within a period of one week GMA demonstrated three times her capacity for double talk, including ignoring the recommendations of investigative bodies she creates if their recommendations do not suit her objective. Oh, what consummate hypocrite!

—E.P. DAKANAY JR.,
emedakanay@yahoo.com



TeleDevelopment
Developing People. Programs and Projects

in cooperation with
BPAP Business Processing Association PHILIPPINES
CCAP Contact Center Association of the Philippines

presents

CALL CENTER 2007
TRAINING CONVENTION
3P's of Peak Performance
PEOPLE, PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

CO-PRESENTOR: Harcourt
MAJOR SPONSORS: neuroLanguage · PLDT BUSINESS SOLUTIONS · INQUIRER · SPEECHPOWER

SUPPORTING SPONSORS: Equitable PCI BANK · NEC · Quali Plus International · JobStreet.com · GIL@S
MEDIA PARTNERS: ANC · BusinessMirror · BusinessWorld www.bworldonline.com
ONLINE PARTNER: Yehey!

8:30AM – 5:30PM • February 21-22, 2007 • Garden Wing, EDSA Shangri-La Hotel

This is the first-ever major training event for the contact center industry. It is definitely the most comprehensive and in-depth conference focused solely on call center training practitioners. This is the biggest gathering of industry experts, training directors and managers, course developers, and trainers under one roof!

WHO SHOULD ATTEND
• TRAINING DIRECTORS • TRAINING MANAGERS • TRAINERS
• COURSE DEVELOPERS • COUNTRY MANAGERS • SITE DIRECTORS
• OPERATIONS MANAGERS • HR MANAGERS

CONFERENCE TOPICS

DAY 1, February 21, 2007 • PLENARY TOPICS:
Maximizing blended learning for call center needs • **Nona Saldaña-Ricafort, Ph.D., Commissioner, Commission on Higher Education (CHED)**
Key training needs of the call center industry • **Benedict Hernandez, General Manager & VP , eTelecare Global Solutions**

PEOPLE TRACK	PROGRAMS TRACK	PROJECTS TRACK
☐ Trainer do's and don't's: Common mistakes and how to eliminate them • **Freddie Primicias, Training Manager, Sutherland Global Services** ☐ Beyond training: GROW coaching model • **Guia Bengzon, Training Manager, PeopleSupport** ☐ Don't lose 'em. Motivating and retaining your participants • **Jose Mordeno, Founder and President Speechpower**	☐ Conducting effective training needs analysis • **Nikki Orcino, Senior Manager, Teletech** ☐ Training metrics: How to make sure your program works • **Diwi Rocha, Founder, Balance Consulting** ☐ Designing a low-cost, high-impact training program • **Gerald Stone, Vice President for Training & Quality, IRMC**	☐ Seven insights from the heart of public speaking • **Raju Mandhyan, Speaker, Trainer and Author, Inner Sun Consultants** ☐ Trends in language assessments **Jason Engleman, International Marketing Coordinator, Harcourt** ☐ Show, tell, and do: The impact of experiential learning • **Harry Fozzard, Vice President - Education & Recruitment, Epixtar**

DAY 2, February 22, 2007 • PLENARY TOPICS:
Competencies of the Filipino trainer • **Maria Victoria Cortez, Training Director, Ateneo CORD**
Catch the wave: Hot training trends • **Serely Geraldine Alcaraz, 2006 President, PSTD & Center Head, ITD Consulting Group**

PEOPLE TRACK	PROGRAMS TRACK	PROJECTS TRACK
☐ Trainer certification: Building training team bench strength • **Robert Greenleaf, Director for Training, PeopleSupport** ☐ Communicating and relating at training • **Teri Gutierrez, Trainer & Consultant, TeleDevelopment Services, Inc.** ☐ Laugh and learn: Using humor in training • **Happy Lopez, Team Manager, Advanced Contact Solutions**	☐ Copyrights and wrong: Facts and fiction about intellectual property in training design • **Atty. JJ Disini, Managing Partner, Disini & Disini Law Office** ☐ Shotgun marriage: Merging training and quality • **Jam Mayer, Director for Training & Quality, SITEL Philippines** ☐ Learner-centered approaches to training and learning • **Bong Austero, First VP Human Capital Development, PNB**	☐ Follow up! How to keep the fire alive after you wrap up the class • **Mark Galutera, Director for Training & Development, ICT Group** ☐ E-learning: Transforming your modules into the new digital format • **Kathy Arceo, Senior Sales Consultant, Yapster e-learning** ☐ Applying Six Sigma in the call center **Bharat Saini, VP-Operations, IRMC**

PANEL DISCUSSION ☐ **Hernan Espiritu, Consultant** ☐ **Mike Lopez, Training Manager, Convergys**
☐ **Cesar Suva, Training Manager, Sykes** ☐ **Brady Wheeler, Training Director, Advanced Contact Solutions**

REGISTRATION FORM

A. **Complete mailing and profile information (PLEASE PRINT)**
Name: ____________
Job title: ____________
Company: ____________
Department: ____________
Business Address: ____________
____
Tel. No.: ____________ Fax. No.: ____________
Email address: ____________

B. **Select preferred conference pass and applicable registration fee.** Please check the desired option below. Group registration from the same company registering together can avail of the group rate discount. Registration form must be completed per individual but all registrations must be submitted together and paid in full at the time of registration.

C. **Submit your registration and payment.** You can submit this registration form to fax nos. 886-4407/ 844-8341. To pay the registration fee, you can send a check payable to TeleDevelopment Services, Inc. along with your registration form. Or you can deposit your payments to any **EQUITABLE PCI Bank • Account Name: TeleDevelopment Services, Inc. Savings Account: 1378042581.** Please write the name of the attendee/s on the deposit slip and fax it to the DL Media Focus office together with the registration form.

CONVENTION FEES • Please check the desired option below

BPAP/ CCAP/ PSTD Member

	ONE-DAY PASS	FULL CONFERENCE
Full / On-site Rate	☐ P 6,300	☐ P 11,250
Group Rate: over 5	☐ P 5,950	☐ P 10,625
Group Rate: over 10	☐ P 5,600	☐ P 10,000

Non-Member

	ONE-DAY PASS	FULL CONFERENCE
Full / On-site Rate	☐ P 7,000	☐ P 12,500
Group Rate: over 5	☐ P 6,650	☐ P 11,875
Group Rate: over 10	☐ P 6,300	☐ P 11,250

For more information, contact DL Media Focus International at 17-O Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat St., Makati City
• Tel. nos: 889-7763 / 844-8341 • Telefax 886-8341
• Email address: admin@mediafocus.com.ph, dlmediafocus@yahoo.com

Kapatiran bet drops out of Senate race

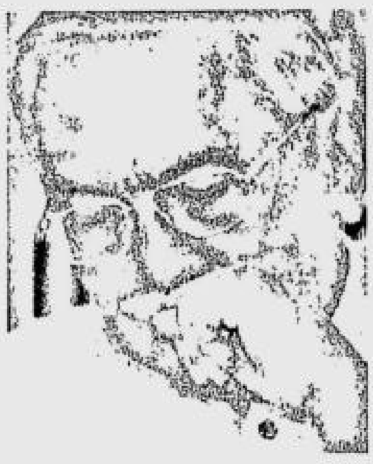
By Christian V. Esguerra

ONE OF THE FOUR CANDIDATES of the "alternative" party running under the banner of God-centered politics has withdrawn from the senatorial race due to poor health.

Mario Ongkiko, 75, a prominent lawyer, has dropped his bid under the Ang Kapatiran party because of diabetes and hypertension.

"I am withdrawing on the advice of my doctor," he told the INQUIRER yesterday. "I didn't want to run the risk. It would be unfair if I won't be able to serve the voters in case I won."

He is expected to formally withdraw his candidacy at the Commission on Elections today. He said it was likely that the party would not field another candidate to replace him.



ONGKIKO: Doctor's order

Ongkiko's decision leaves the party with only three senatorial candidates—Dr. Martin Bautista and lawyers Adrian Sison and Zosimo Paredes.

Paredes, 58, is the former executive director of the Presidential Commission on the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement.

He criticized the transfer of convicted rapist Daniel Smith, a US Marine, to the custody of the US Embassy. The comment cost Paredes his job.

Sison is a 50-year-old lawyer who specializes in family law and taxation cases.

Big loss

Nandy Pacheco, the antigun advocate who founded the party in 2004, described Ongkiko's withdrawal from the ticket as "a big loss."

"He's the most well-known among the group," he said. "But you can't argue against health. We have to accept reality."

Ongkiko, a veteran lawyer, was expected to help carry the Kapatiran cause, which seeks to "bring back the teachings of God into the center of politics."

It has clear grounding on Church teachings that engagement in the political sphere should be the primary role of the laity, not the clergy.

Abolish pork barrel

Besides advocating a gun-less society, the party said it was committed to abolishing the pork barrel, a source of kickbacks for some members of Congress.

The pork barrel comes from the national budget and funds the pet projects of legislators.

Kapatiran also presented itself as "the only political party that will discipline its members for wrongdoings."

Despite his decision, Ongkiko said he would stay on as president of Kapatiran.

"I will do everything in my capacity to achieve the vision of the party," he said. "We will still encourage right-thinking people to make a change, particularly in the arena of politics."

Judging by its machinery and relatively unknown candidates, Kapatiran's chances of winning against the administration's Team Unity and the Genuine Opposition of deposed President Joseph Estrada are slim.

Not by money alone

But candidates like Bautista, a longtime doctor based in the United States, are convinced that the voters would soon "understand that it is within our power to change this country."

Kapatiran candidates are not buying the idea that elections are won primarily with money.

Administration reelectionist Sen. Ralph Recto on Sunday said that a senatorial candidate was allowed to spend at least P120 million for a campaign. His fellow senatorial aspirant, Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, said a party could add as much as P80 million to the individual's campaign kitty.

Bautista said Kapatiran candidates promised to spend "not more than what a senator can earn in a year" for their individual campaigns. He said the party's limit was around P400,000.

Bautista said he was spending primarily out of his own pocket.

He left for the United States a year after graduating from the University of the Philippines in 1989.

Bautista returned to the country for good last year, leaving a lucrative medical practice in New York and Oklahoma.

His wife also had a highly successful career as a pulmonologist in the United States.

American Marine dies of heart attack ...

From page A1

Cpl. Timothy Lewis died at around 3:30 p.m. Thursday while being treated in Camp Teodulo Bautista in Jolo town after suffering a heart attack, said Maj. John Redfield, public affairs officer of Joint Special Operations Task Force Philippines (JSOTFP).

"It was an unfortunate incident—the death of a Marine. It was not absolutely an accident, it was not in any way related to combat," Redfield said.

The American Marines were in Sulu to participate in the Balikatan exercises which opened on Sunday.

"He was not participating in any activity and he was not exerting himself at the time," Redfield said. "We have to determine the factors that led to his death and it will take time," he added.

Accident?

But a Philippine source said Lewis died in an accident.

The source said the Americans were working on a road construction project in Barangay Buanza in Indanan town and were trying to crush boulders using explosives when several splinters hit Lewis. The source said he got the information from some residents of Barangay Buanza.

Lewis had traveled continuously by plane and ship for 24 hours from his unit's base in the southern Japan island of Okinawa to humid Jolo island. Medical personnel provided advanced cardiac life support to Lewis in a Jolo camp, where he was later pronounced dead, Redfield said.

The joint exercises focused on completing humanitarian projects on Jolo, where a US-backed offensive has targeted Abu Sayyaf Muslim extremists and two top Indonesian militants for months, Redfield said.

Lewis was part of a 400-strong US military contingent involved in the Feb. 18 to March 4 annual exercises with Filipino troops.

US and Philippine officials gathered yesterday at Manila's military headquarters to formally announce the start of the maneuvers.

WELCOME
OPENING CEREM
RP-US EXERC
ALIKATAN 20

FILIPINO and American officials link arms at the opening ceremony for the Philippine-US military exercises in Camp Aguinaldo Monday. From left, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, Defense Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, US Ambassador Kristie Kenney, Ohio Rep. Steve Chabot and Sen. Rodolfo Biazon.

JOAN BONDOC

Road, school repairs

In the past, the exercise focused on field combat exercises that involved up to 5,000 American military personnel. But this year, close to 400 US troops will instead focus on road improvement, school repairs and medical missions.

A memorial service was held for Lewis in a military camp in Zamboanga Sunday and another one was scheduled yesterday on Jolo, Redfield said. His death would not hamper the planned civic activities, Redfield said.

Maj. Gen. Stephen Tom, who heads the US contingent, told a news conference an investigation was under way to determine the specific reason for Lewis suffering cardiac arrest, "but it appears to be a natural cause."

Lewis' body was flown out of the country Friday. He was from Kentucky state, but his hometown was not immediately known, Redfield said.

Cold mornings gone and hot days are here

From page A1

weeks from now with the expected end of the northeast monsoon that had brought cold mornings to Metro Manila and the rest of the country the past several weeks.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said the increasingly warm weather from mid-morning to late afternoon in the past few days was a sign the northeast monsoon was waning.

"It's all due to the decreasing intensity of the northeast monsoon that we associate with the cold temperature. We're moving toward summer," Nathaniel Cruz, Pagasa weather services chief, said in an interview.

The northeast monsoon, or the cold wind originating from mainland China, is expected to end in late February or early March, paving the way for summer.

"This is the best time to go to the beach, or go mountain-climbing. There are people who hate this kind of weather, but the outdoors type love this weather. The hotter, the better," Cruz said.

Just a memory

Less than three weeks ago, Filipinos were gritting their teeth in their beds after temperatures—the coldest since October last year—plunged to 9.6 degrees Celsius in Baguio City and 18.7 degrees Celsius in Quezon City.

It was so cold then that vegetable farms in some parts in the north of the country turned into fields of frost, damaging ready-to-harvest carrots, cabbages, potatoes and radishes.

Pagasa yesterday also said that an inter-tropical convergence zone, a large weather disturbance associated with thunderstorms and rains, was affecting the Visayas and Mindanao, but that so far, it had not detected any storms in the country's area of responsibility.

Warm moisture

Since a week ago, chilly mornings started to give way to warm weather at around noon.

Cruz explained that the cold wind from mainland China that brought the cold spell from late January to early February had swerved from its direct path, and picked up warm moisture in the Pacific Ocean on its way to the Philippines.

The cold wind used to blow straight from Siberia past China and on to the Philippines until a high pressure area developed in the past days, he said.

With the high pressure area, the wind has shifted to the east, onto the Pacific Ocean and Philippine Sea, Cruz said.

www.sountex.com
Major Credit Cards Accepted In-house Financing Available
Getting a new hearing aid is an important step towards improving your quality of life. Compare before you buy and experience the Sountex™ difference.
Total Customer Focus Hearing Care Approach
Our experienced, friendly and caring consultants will provide
• FREE "no-obligation" hearing tests
• FREE lifetime service guarantee
• FREE battery replacements with every regular half yearly service
At Sountex, the hearing test is prompt, precise and painless. If you are unable to come in for a test, we can arrange for you to take it in the comfort of your own home
FREE hearing test and consultation.
Call 867-1916 today.
For inquiries outside Metro Manila, call our toll-free number 1-800-10-8671916
Room 1, 2nd floor Gilamac Bldg., #40 Don Gil Garcia St., Capitol Site, Cebu City
Tel. No.: (032) 2538964
ACCREDITED BY THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF AUDIOLOGY
Sountex
The Hearing Care Professionals
Hearing Solutions from Siemens

The ATENEO brand is your career advantage.
Course Offerings for 2007
2nd marketing diploma program
March 7 - June 30, 2007
INTRODUCTORY MODULES
Market Research March 7 - 10
Strategic Marketing March 21, 22, 24
INTERMEDIATE MODULES
Tactical Product/Price April 11, 12, 14
Tactical Place/Promotion April 25, 26, 28
Marketing Communication May 9, 10, 12
ADVANCED MODULES
Brand Management May 23, 24, 26
International Marketing June 6, 7, 9
Services Marketing June 20, 21, 23
Special Topics:
Marketing Forum June 30
(CRM, Direct Marketing, E-marketing, Events Marketing)
Sales Management
Learning the Art of Negotiation
March 15 - 16
Management Skills for Field Sales Managers
March 21 - 23
Negotiation Skills and Tactics
April 10 - 11
Selling, Maintaining, and Developing Key Accounts
May 3 - 5
Other Courses
Finance 101
March 19 - 23
Mastering the Principles of Business Writing
March 20 - 21
Applied Project Management
March 22, 23, 29, 30
Training Design and Learning Techniques
March 22 - 24
Six Sigma Green Belt Program
March 30, 31, April 13, 14, 21
Mastering Presentation Skills
April 19 - 21
Conducting Training and Evaluating Returns
April 24 - 26
Doing Business in China
April 28 - June 30
Schedules may change without prior notice
Please contact us for regular updates

For inquiries and reservation, call Jen Albacite at 830.2041 or Francis de Leon at 830.2042 or write to cce-abib@aps.ateneo.edu
You may also visit and register online at www.cce.ateneo.edu
ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
Center for Continuing Education
130 HV dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati 1200 Philippines
63(2)830.2050 • 63(2)810.7809
cce-abib@aps.ateneo.edu • www.cce.ateneo.edu

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
2nd Floor, Los Baños Bldg.
Cor. Peñaranda and Aguinaldo Sts.
Legazpi City
Telefax No. (052) 480-4182
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/regions

Across the NATION

Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) *Assistant Editor* **Tony Bergonia**

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Army, MILF clash anew; 2 rebs killed

COTABATO CITY—TWO SEPARATIST GUERRILLAS were killed as clashes erupted anew between government soldiers and the guerrillas as negotiations between them for a peace agreement remain stalled.

The clashes took place despite the presence of a team of ceasefire monitors led by Malaysian Army officials.

Government forces and the guerrillas shot it out in Midsayap, North Cotabato where previous clashes had occurred over a land dispute.

Lt. Col. Julieto Ando, 6th Infantry Division spokesperson, said members of the 40th Infantry Battalion were patrolling Sitio Talusan in Barangay Mudseng following reports of sightings of an armed group.

The soldiers were fired upon by about 30 armed men later identified as members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, a guerrilla group demanding a separate Islamic state in Mindanao.

"Our troops' lives were in danger at that time, they were forced to fire back to drive away the armed group," Ando told the INQUIRER.

Eid Kabalu, speaking for the MILF, claimed that the military meant to attack the guerrillas when it sent troops to Mudseng, particularly in an area that he said was not far from the MILF's 105th base command.

"Naturally, the MILF thought they were under attack so they fired back at the Army's offensive," Kabalu said.

"There was no coordination made as should be the case as provided for in the ceasefire agreement," he added.

The bodies of two MILF guerrillas were recovered by government troops, including two M-16, an M-14 and Garand rifles, Ando said.

Ali Mangacop of Barangay Mudseng said their village remain deserted as residents still refuse to return home.

"We see armed men every now and then, fighting might erupt again," Mangacop, whose family is in an evacuation center, said.

The clash site is about 10 kilometers south of Barangay Rangaben, also in Midsayap, where a Malaysian led-international peace monitoring team, representatives from the MILF, the government and other groups are located.

Skirmishes erupted in late January in the village of Rangaban between soldiers and MILF guerrillas. Mudseng is adjacent to Rangaban.

Saturday's conflict had been stopped when the government-MILF Joint Monitoring and Assistance Team (JMAT) arrived in the area and separated the military and the MILF.

Peace talks between the government and the guerrillas are put on hold over disagreements over territory. The MILF wants 1,000 villages to be put under the jurisdiction of an expanded Muslim autonomous area. *Edwin Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao*

GMA to attend Mass for Bong Pineda wife, rally for Lito Lapid

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE ruling coalition has picked Gov. Mark Lapid, not Board Member Lilia Pineda, as its official candidate for governor in Pampanga, the provincial Lakas-CMD announced on Monday.

Fidel Arcenas, the governor's campaign manager, said the coalition "clearly stated" its choice when it gave Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid, the governor's father, "the ball to lead the official campaign rally of the Team Unity" at the Bren Z. Guiao Convention Center here on Tuesday.

"Otherwise, the rally would have been given to the Kampi (Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino)," Arcenas told the INQUIRER, referring to another administration political bloc led by Pineda, wife of suspected jueteng lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda.

The local Kampi, composed of 16 of Pampanga's 20 mayors, has fielded Mrs. Pineda as governor and Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao as her running mate.

Uninvited by Senator Lapid to the rally, she is proceeding with her original plan to hold a birthday bash by way of a Mass at the St. Augustine Parish in Lubao town five hours ahead of the coalition's rally. President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to attend the Mass.

Governor Lapid has confirmed the decision made by the Lakas-CMD. The rally, he said in a statement, "is a clear indication that the coalition has upheld the equity of the incumbent rule in choosing its official candidates in the May elections."

The young Lapid explained that "under the said rule, incumbents running for the same position who belong to any of the party under the coalition will be the coalition's official candidates."

He declined to give details on how his father clinched the coalition's endorsement for him. But he said the provincial Lakas-CMD would hope to clinch a 12-0 victory for the administration's senatorial candidates.

Arcenas said the coalition's protocol in Tuesday's program gave out a strong preference for the Lapids. The senator will sit next right to Ms Arroyo. Governor Lapid will sit next to his father.

Arcenas could not say if Ms Arroyo would endorse the 28-year-old governor by raising his hand.

Secretary Edgardo Pamintuan, chief of the Luzon Urban Beltway super region and a member of the Lakas-CMD national directorate, said Ms Arroyo would only endorse the 12 senatorial candidates of her Team Unity.

A Lakas-CMD source said Senator Lapid clinched the administration's support for his son when he pressed Gabriel Claudio, the President's adviser for political affairs, to make a choice between the governor and Pineda.

"*Pumili na kayo* (You have to choose between the two)," the source quoted the senator as telling Claudio over the weekend.

"That led Secretary Claudio to give the campaign rally to Senator Lapid," the source added.

Pineda said she was unfazed by the claims of the Lapid camp.

"If the equity of the incumbent is a party policy that they have invoked, that's okay. I respect that. But I hope the Lapids would respect the people's voice," she said in a phone interview.

"To the voters, it is not the equity of the incumbent that matters. When they vote, they will dump those who did not serve Pampanga well and pick those who are sincere in ushering the poor out of poverty and in leading Pampanga to economic prosperity," she said.

Tribe fears NPA rebs, gets guarded by Army

DOÑA REMEDIOS TRINIDAD, Bulacan—Suspected New People's Army rebels from Umiray, Quezon, and Aurora have threatened members of the minority tribe Dumagat living in a settlement area here due to their ties with government soldiers.

Lt. Col. Melquiades Feliciano, the new commanding officer of the Army's 56th Infantry Battalion (IB) based in the mountainous areas of Bulacan, said they have been guarding Dumagat members, who have complained of harassment allegedly from the rebels.

Reports showed that about 50 armed rebels on Friday went to Barangay Kalawakan here and threatened the tribesmen.

Lucy Rigmen, chief of the Dumagat tribe in the Tubigan settlement, said the rebels took them to a secluded place and threatened to harm their families unless they stopped their partnership with the military.

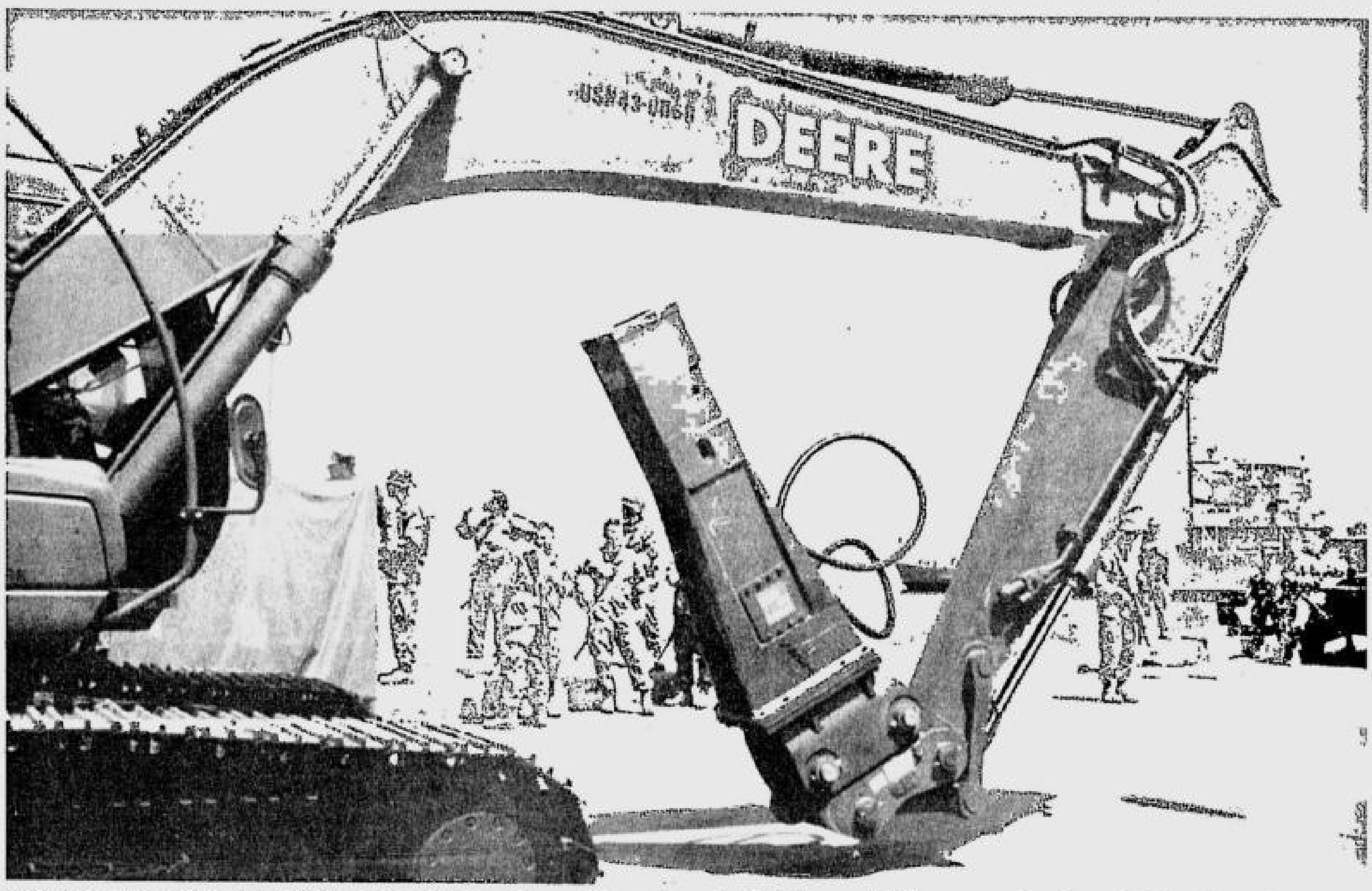
About eight months ago, the Dumagat tribe in the Bulacan portions of the Sierra Madre joined the Indigenous Peoples (IP) Army where they were tapped to serve as monitoring and intelligence men of the military.

As members of the IP Army, tribesmen work with foresters and rangers in protecting the Angat Dam watershed in nearby Norzagaray town.

They were also asked to monitor the operation of illegal loggers and timber poachers in the area.

Two weeks ago, 25,694 board feet of illegally cut logs were seized from timber poachers in Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija, partly with the help of information given by Dumagat tribe members.

Delgin Friginal, tribal governor of the Dumagat, said for several years most of them were forced to work with the rebels and illegal loggers to support their families. *Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon*



HEAVY equipment for road building came with American soldiers who are in Sulu for new Balikatan exercises that officials said are focused on humanitarian work like conducting medical missions and road construction.
REUTERS

US Army exec says GIs' good behavior assured

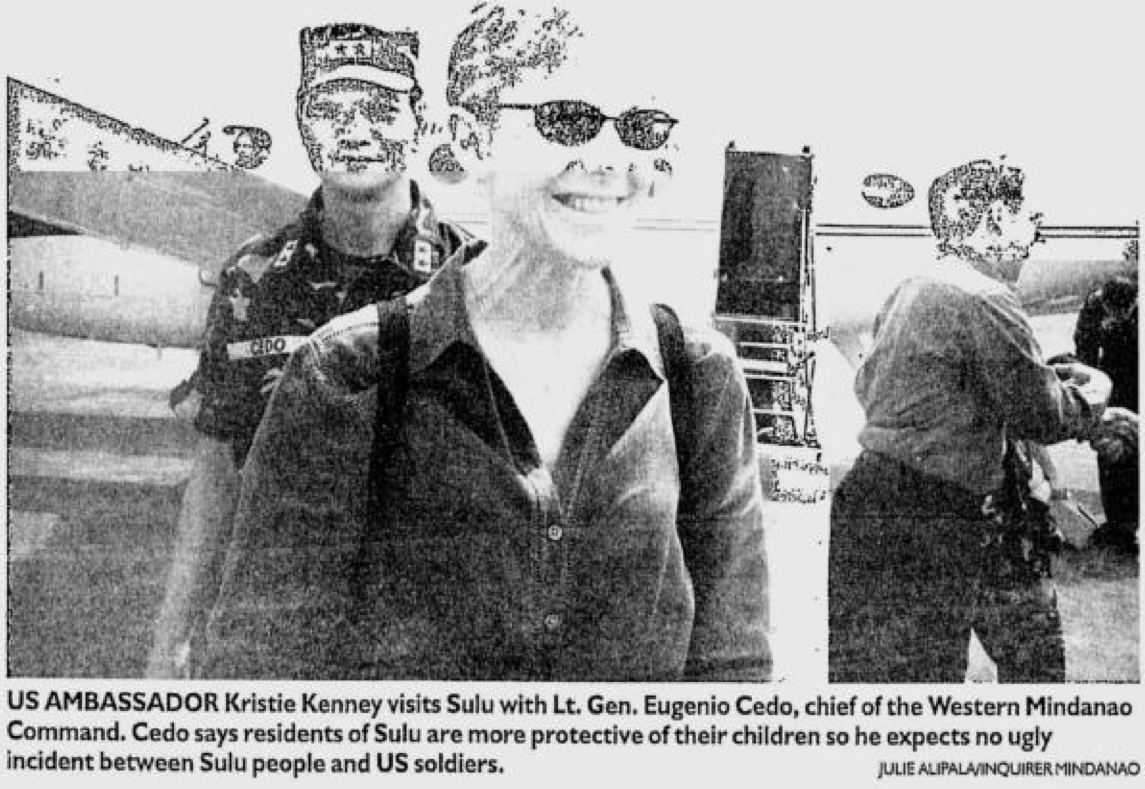
By Christine O. Avendaño

AMERICAN MILITARY OFFICIALS yesterday guaranteed that US military forces here for two weeks of military exercises in Sulu will be in their best behavior, their rest and recreation time limited to organized tours and trips.

The RP-US Balikatan 2007 officially opened yesterday, with only 390 US military personnel as participants, said to be the smallest US force sent here since the joint exercises began in 2000.

And, as if by design, there will be no war games this year as the exercise events were limited only to humanitarian assistance and civic military operations in Mindanao and a crisis action planning exercise to be conducted in the confines of Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City.

The exercises opened at a time when US Marine Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith continue to appeal his conviction last year for raping a Filipina in Subic in 2005.



US AMBASSADOR Kristie Kenney visits Sulu with Lt. Gen. Eugenio Cedo, chief of the Western Mindanao Command. Cedo says residents of Sulu are more protective of their children so he expects no ugly incident between Sulu people and US soldiers.
JULIE ALIPALA/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Cancellation

The joint exercises almost did not push through when the US government announced its initial cancellation last year brought about by Smith's detention at the Makati City jail following his conviction.

The US protested that, under the Visiting Forces Agreement, it continues to have jurisdiction over Smith until his rape conviction case was brought to final judgment.

The matter was settled, though, after Malacañang took Smith out of the Makati City jail and returned him to US custody.

"(T)he US expects its soldiers, Army and Marines, to conduct themselves at the highest standard of proper behavior," US Army Maj. Gen. Stephen Douglas Tom told reporters at a news conference following the RP-US Balikatan 2007 opening ceremony in Camp Aguinaldo.

Tom said that US military personnel were provided instructions and training to ensure that they would be "very good models of good behavior while they are here."

"So I am very confident that we will have all our US personnel conducting themselves properly and we'll have no incidents," he said.

Asked how the US forces would spend their rest and recreation time, he said that they will provide them with organized tours and trips.

"We want the US personnel to explore and understand the culture of the Philippines and so what we will have and encourage is that organized tours and organized trips are in groups be instituted so that our soldiers can learn about the Philippines," he said.

Another mercy mission

Another US-based group, the Medical Missions for Children, is to conduct surgeries on cleft palates and lips on 60 children from poor families in different parts of Leyte.

Enelyn Daculo, a 13-year-old who would be among the beneficiaries of the free surgery, said she was enthusiastic about her "future look."

"I am looking forward to my operation. I know it will be a successful one," she said.

Her mother, Marichu, shared her optimism and said they traveled by sea and land just to reach the provincial hospital in Tacloban City to avail themselves of free surgeries offered by the Medical Missions for Children. Fourteen surgeons, pediatricians and nurses comprise the medical mission.

Normal life

The Daculo family lives in Barangay Buwaya, an island-village of Abuyog town, which is about 90 km from this town.

The 40-year-old mother and her husband Enrique, depend on fishing to raise Enelyn and her four siblings.

"While every peso counts to us, we did not mind shelling out a few hundreds in coming here. We want our daughter Enelyn to live like any normal kid by having her cleft lip operated on by these kind souls," Marichu said.

Since the family's income barely meets their daily needs, she said, having her daughter undergo an operation was next to impossible for them.

"I don't know how much it would cost. But I know it requires a huge sum and that we cannot really afford it," Marichu said.

Dr. Linda Astorga, assistant provincial health officer who also acts as the coordinator of the mission, said that a cleft lip operation could cost P40,000.

"That is why, we are really glad, if not privileged, that the group is here in the province to conduct free surgical operations for children," Astorga said.

The ages of the patients scheduled for operation range from six-months to 16 years old.

Astorga said that Leyte has one of the highest cases of children suffering from either cleft lip or palate, a physical defect normally inherited or caused by infections during pregnancy or malnutrition.

Dr. Harry Dennis Snyder, team leader of the mission, said his group focuses on children with cleft lips or palates.

"These devastating deformities deprive these children of their freedom to live normally within their communities," Snyder said. The surgical operation lasts between 45 minutes to an hour.

Bacolod diocese to tap youth for clean polls

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—A GROUP OF Catholics would play a major role in helping ensure that the coming May elections would be clean and honest, Church officials said here.

Fr. Aniceto Buenafe, director of the Diocese of Bacolod Social Action, said the Church is calling on the youth to help bring about credible elections on May 14.

He said Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra has already called on the youth to help the Church be an effective election watchdog.

The bishop will hold a consultation meeting with the priests of the Diocese of Bacolod and officials and members of Parish Pastoral Councils this month to discuss the Church's campaign for credible elections.

Buenafe said the Church role would be in three stages of the elections—in the selection of candidates, in the voting process and in monitoring the election results.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, in a letter to dioceses and parishes last month, called on the faithful to "choose wise, discerning and experienced candidates."

"The Church values the democratic system," the CBCP said, adding that the bishops "seek only one thing: to apply the values of the Gospel to our electoral process."

"These coming elections in May 2007 are especially important. Many of our current political problems... can be traced to unresolved questions concerning the conduct of past elections," the CBCP had said.

The CBCP said the country could not afford another "controversial electoral exercise that further aggravates social distrust and hopelessness."

"It is time we are determined that we come together once more and organize ourselves more effectively than we have done in the past to make this year's elections credible—and as free of violence as possible," it said.

While the Church vowed to keep watch on election fraud, police had arrested 10 people for illegally posting campaign materials in this city.

The police caught the men in the act of gluing the campaign materials of reelectionist Sen. Panfilo Lacson in areas not designated as common poster areas by the Commission on Elections.

The violation carries a penalty of one year to six years imprisonment, without probation, according to Bacolod Comelec registrar Mavil Majarucon.

In Cebu City, Comelec Cebu City north district election officer Marchel Sarno said the Comelec and the police have created a task force that would run after violators of rules on campaign materials.

Posters of Senate President Manuel Villar and reelectionist Sen. Edgardo Angara have been posted in major thoroughfares, not designated as common poster area. *With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas*

Geothermal plant revenue may subsidize power costs

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—THE PHILIPpine National Oil Co. Energy Development Corp. yesterday said it could help reduce electricity costs in some areas in Negros Occidental by subsidizing these with royalty from the Northern Negros Geothermal Power Plant (NNGPP), according to a top PNOC-EDC official.

Agnes de Jesus, PNOC-EDC vice president for environment and external relations, said 80 percent of the royalty could be allocated as subsidy for the electricity consumption in the NNGPP's host areas, Bago City and Murcia.

She said the remaining 20 percent would go to community development and livelihood projects.

Jose Ma. Valencia, chief of staff of Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon, said provincial officials learned at a meeting with PNOC-EDC that the royalty would reach about P3.5 million a year.

Marañon earlier called for a meeting with PNOC-EDC officials to discuss how it could sell power generated by NNGPP's 49-megawatt plant in Negros Occidental at lower rates to draw in potential investors.

Come-on

During the plant's inauguration, President Macapagal-Arroyo urged investors to come to Bago City and Murcia, where power rates would be more competitive due to the presence of the NNGPP power generation facility.

But the Central Negros Electric Cooperative (Ceneco) does not get power from the NNGPP.

Ceneco has a contract with Global Edison, which had planned to put up a coal plant in Pulupandan town, Ceneco president Eddie Guillem said.

Ceneco is currently buying its electricity from the National Power Corp. at rates lower than what the NNGPP had initially offered, he said.

But De Jesus said NNGPP offered to sell power to the Negros cooperatives at only P3.40 per kilowatt-hour, which is very competitive with the other suppliers.

Aside from the royalty, the NNGPP would also pay one centavo per kWh of power sold to distributors to Bago City and Murcia, through the Department of Energy, she said.

The DOE requires a centavo of funds from every kWh from state-owned power generating plants to finance village electrification, reforestation and watershed management.

Projects

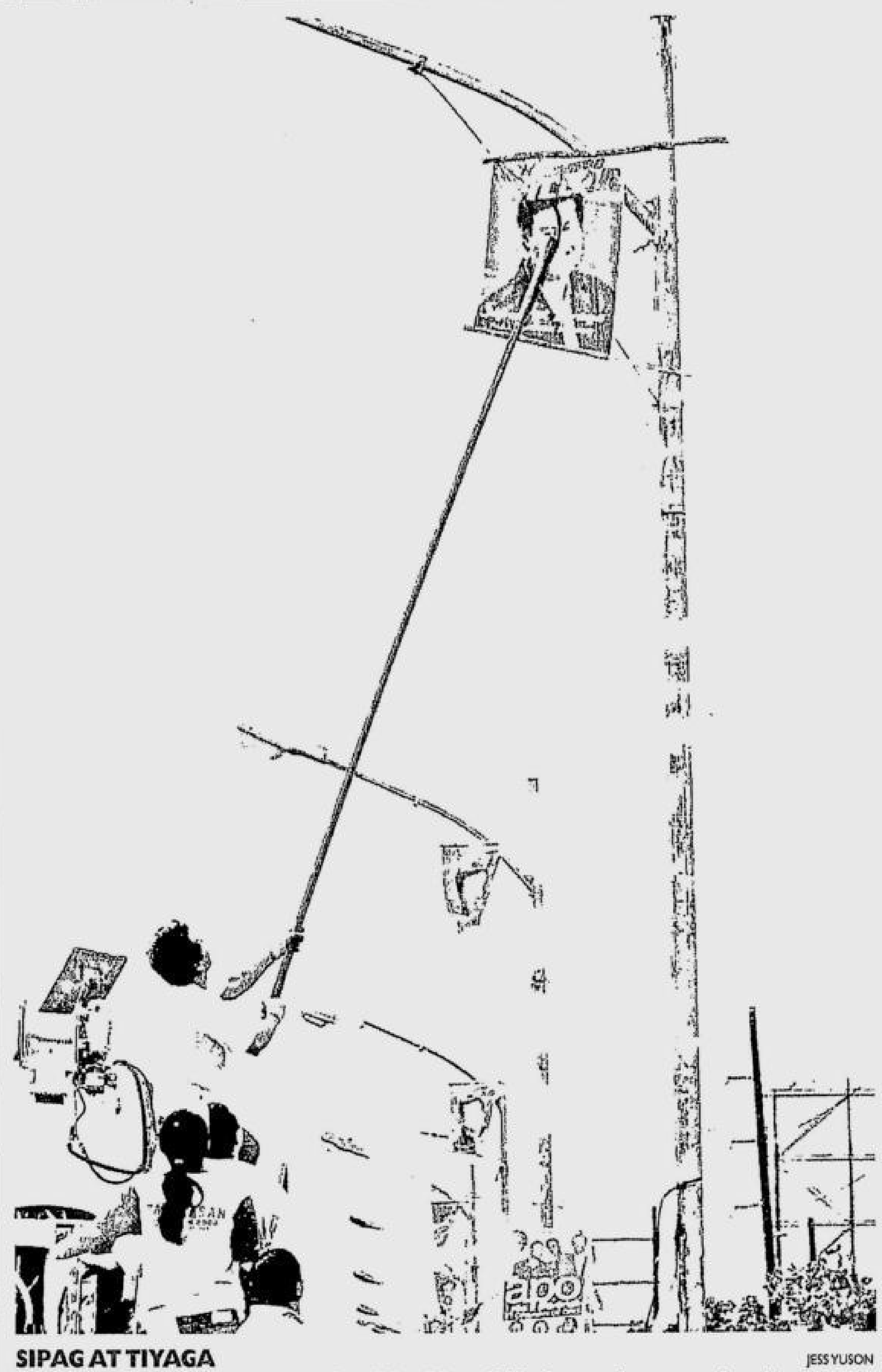
Local governments of areas that host power plants are required to submit project proposals for financing.

The Bago City and Murcia councils would determine where their share from NNGPP's royalty would be spent.

The local councils could decide to turn over the royalty to the power cooperative supplying electricity to their residents so that subsidies can be deducted from individual bills, De Jesus said.

The local councils could also allocate a certain percentage from the royalty as rebates to industries that invest in their areas, she added.

The NNGPP has a program that allots funds for health, education and infrastructure projects in Bago City and Murcia.



SIPAG AT TIYAGA JESS YUSON
Workers remove campaign posters of candidate Manuel Villar hung on lampposts along Marcos Bridge in Cagayan de Oro City in line with the Comelec's drive against illegal election campaign materials.

Politics at PMA reunion muted, but poll talk persisted

By Vincent Cabreza
and Frank Cimatu
Inquirer Northern Luzon

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO CITY—Administration and opposition candidates shied away from the reunion of Philippine Military Academy graduates on Saturday, heeding a request made by academy officials.

But it did not stop members of the PMA alumni from talking politics.

Senate President Manuel Villar, the event's guest speaker, and Sen. Rodolfo Biazon were the only high-profile politicians who joined the alumni homecoming.

Villar, an adopted member of PMA Class 1977, made no references to the May election in his speech, exploring instead the reasons the Senate has been challenging the administration.

He said the Senate refused to accept "constitutional" shortcuts, when it questioned last year a people's initiative seeking to convert government into a unicameral parliament.

All of the participating alumni classes were also instructed by Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., and the PMA Alumni Association (PMAAA) to avoid making political references during the event.

Protocol

Former Philippine National Police chief, Arturo Lomibao, who announced on Friday here that he might run against Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. in Pangasinan's fourth congressional district race, declined to accommodate interviews in deference to the "no politics" protocol.

Reporters tried to get the sentiments of members of the PMA "Marilag" Class of 1995 because their mistah (classmate), detained Navy Lt. Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes IV, is a senatorial candidate of the United Opposition.

But Capt. Edmund Mendoza, the class spokesperson, said they had decided not to give political comments and were in the academy only to "enjoy" the reunion.

Even Villar's campaign banners, which were hung alongside the welcome streamers installed by various alumni classes on Thursday, were taken down. Campaign posters on the vehicles that joined Villar's convoy were also removed.

Judging by the streamers along the road leading to PMA, the reunion was more commercial than political.

Advertisements

Displayed on the class streamers were their insignias and the logos of telecommunication companies, a pawnshop, a soft drink brand and even a skin whitening product.

But the restrictions did not stop many alumni members from talking, PMA official's found out, when they began monitoring over 1,500 graduates who attended the event on Saturday.

Capt. Dennis Solomon, PMA information officer, had asked his men to take down the names of members who violated the protocol. The list was long.

Retired Lt. Col. Candido Filio, the lone representative of PMA Class 1956 who attended the reunion, said both the PMA and "this country needs reinvention" because institutions like the presidency no longer work.

Retired Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco, a member of PMA "Matatag" Class of 1971, discussed to reporters the political careers of his classmates.

Co-op cuts off power supply to Zambales town hall

IBA, ZAMBALES—GOVERNMENT officials and employees at the town hall here were forced to work in candlelight on Friday after the local power cooperative cut off the building's power supply due to the local government's unpaid bills amounting to at least P3 million.

Officials of the Zambales Electric Cooperative I, however, spared the police station, public market and health center.

This was the second time since December last year that Zameco I disconnected the power supply to the town hall.

Mayor Danilo Pamoleras said he would sue Zameco I officials for their alleged arbitrary imposition of excessive and questionable rates not only on the Iba government and residents, but on consumers in other parts of Zambales.

"We need to clarify all issues involving Zameco here because even those that were supposed to be debts made by my predecessors were included in our bills," Pamoleras said.

He said Zameco I is not a registered cooperative at the Cooperative Development Authority office so the local government is charging them taxes.

But Rene Divino, Zameco I manager, said the power firm is a nonprofit, non-stock cooperative and is exempted from paying taxes.

"But in the case of Iba town, Zameco is now paying taxes because of the approved ordinance compelling us to get a business permit," Divino said.

"Naturally, we have to increase our rates here. If we will not do that, how can we pay the National Power Corp., which is the main power supplier?" he asked. *Cesar Villa, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Tubbataha park execs appeal: Don't kill sea birds

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—IF one of these days you find birds with metal or plastic leg bands, especially in the open seas, please don't shoot them.

They are sea birds from Tubbataha Reef National Park in Palawan that are subjects of scientific study.

Angelique Songco, park manager, said the Tubbataha Management Office (TMO) and the Conservation International-Philippines (CI) had teamed up for a study of the sea birds of Tubbataha as part of the conservation effort of the CI in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seascape, that includes the Tubbataha.

Songco said no scientific study had been conducted yet on the sea birds that inhabit the two islets of the park and the attaching of leg bands to the birds was the groups' first attempt to learn how far they go and how they grow up.

The TMO and CI just started marking the sea birds last October and they have already attached leg bands to 450 birds out of the 5,000 target birds.

There are seven recorded species of sea birds in Tubbataha which includes the brown and red-footed boobies, the more appealing and popular of the bird species there.

The birds have been observed to roam in the open seas but Songco is not discounting the possibility that they may also venture in land.

"We are appealing to everyone to please report to us any sighting of the sea birds with leg bands. Such information will be a great help to us in building our information database on the sea birds of Tubbataha," she said.

Songco said the plastic and metal leg bands attached to the birds bear the number of the birds and the inscription PAL. PHILS., short for Palawan, Philippines.

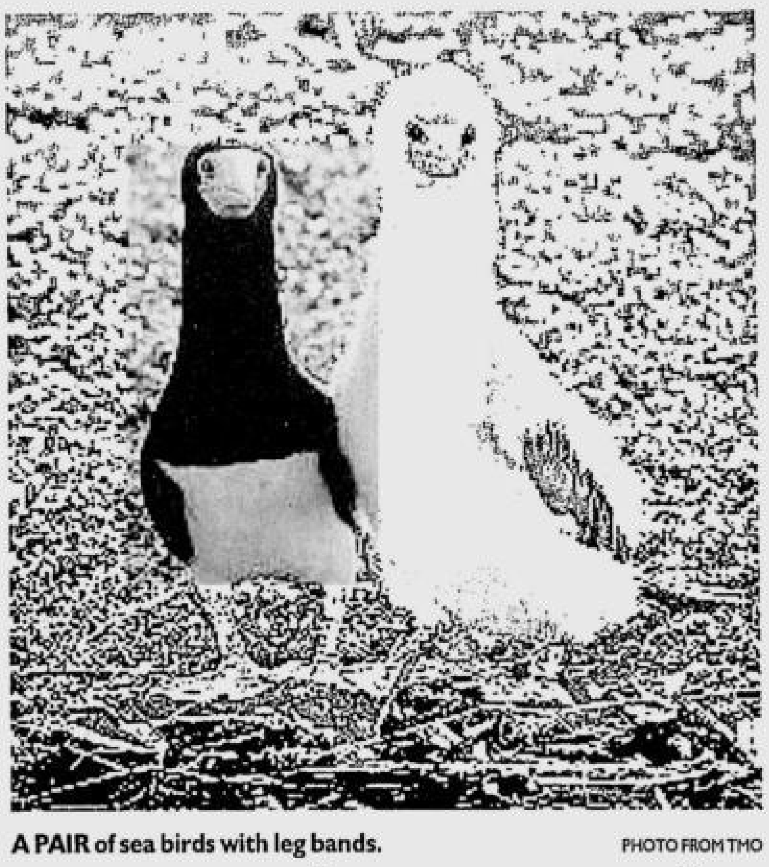
The park manager also said that in the whole country, the birds of Tubbataha are the only ones whose leg bands bear a local address and they cannot be mistaken for the water birds from Olango Island in Cebu that bear foreign addresses in their bands.

Sightings of live Tubbataha birds anywhere in the country should be reported, if possible, by phone (048) 434-5759, or by e-mail (tmo@tubbatahareef.org.).

In case one finds a dead sea bird, Songco appealed to the finder to send the band to the TMO Office, Basaya Building, San Miguel, Puerto Princesa 5300 Palawan.

An international group earlier asked people not to pin the blame on the spread of the bird flu virus on wild birds because there was no data directly linking the flight of wild birds with the highly contagious disease.

Government authorities have imposed a ban on the importation of poultry and poultry products from countries that have cases of bird flu as a measure to prevent the entry of the disease in the Philippines, one of only several countries that are still bird flu-free. *Robert Bagalay, Inquirer Southern Luzon*



A PAIR of sea birds with leg bands. PHOTO FROM TMO

SEC: Even with shares sale, PLDT still Pinoy-owned

By Norman Bordadora

FILIPINOS, NOT FOREIGNERS, WILL STILL OWN much of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., even if the government sells its block of shares in the public utility to a foreign firm, according to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The SEC submitted a report to the House committee on good government, hoping to disprove the claims of Catholic bishops belonging to the Kilusang Makabansang Ekonomiya and other organizations.

The bishops and other interest groups believed the sale of the seized Philippine Telecommunications Investment Corp. shares to Hong Kong-based First Pacific Holdings Inc. would increase foreign ownership in PLDT to well beyond the 40-percent limit set under the law.

The Constitution mandates that all franchised public utilities should be 60-percent owned by Filipinos.

"PLDT has met the required 60-percent Filipino equity for a corporation to operate as a public utility," the SEC declared in its report to the House committee looking into the impending P25-billion sale of PTIC's shares in PLDT to First Pacific.

Before the House adjourned its session, SEC general counsel Vernette Umali-Paco testified before the congressional committee that, even with the sale of the PTIC shares to the Hong Kong firm, the ownership of PLDT would still be in line with the constitutional cap on foreign equity.

House committee on good government senior vice chair Salacnib Baterina of Ilocos Sur released the SEC document to the media, explaining that the report was "imbued with public interest."

The SEC report showed that 86 percent of PLDT's capital stock is in the hands of Filipinos.

Catholic bishops Julio Labayen, Antonio Tobias and Deogracias Iñiguez of the KME, and several other groups, had claimed in a paid print advertisement that foreign firms already owned 61.2 percent of PLDT's common shares.

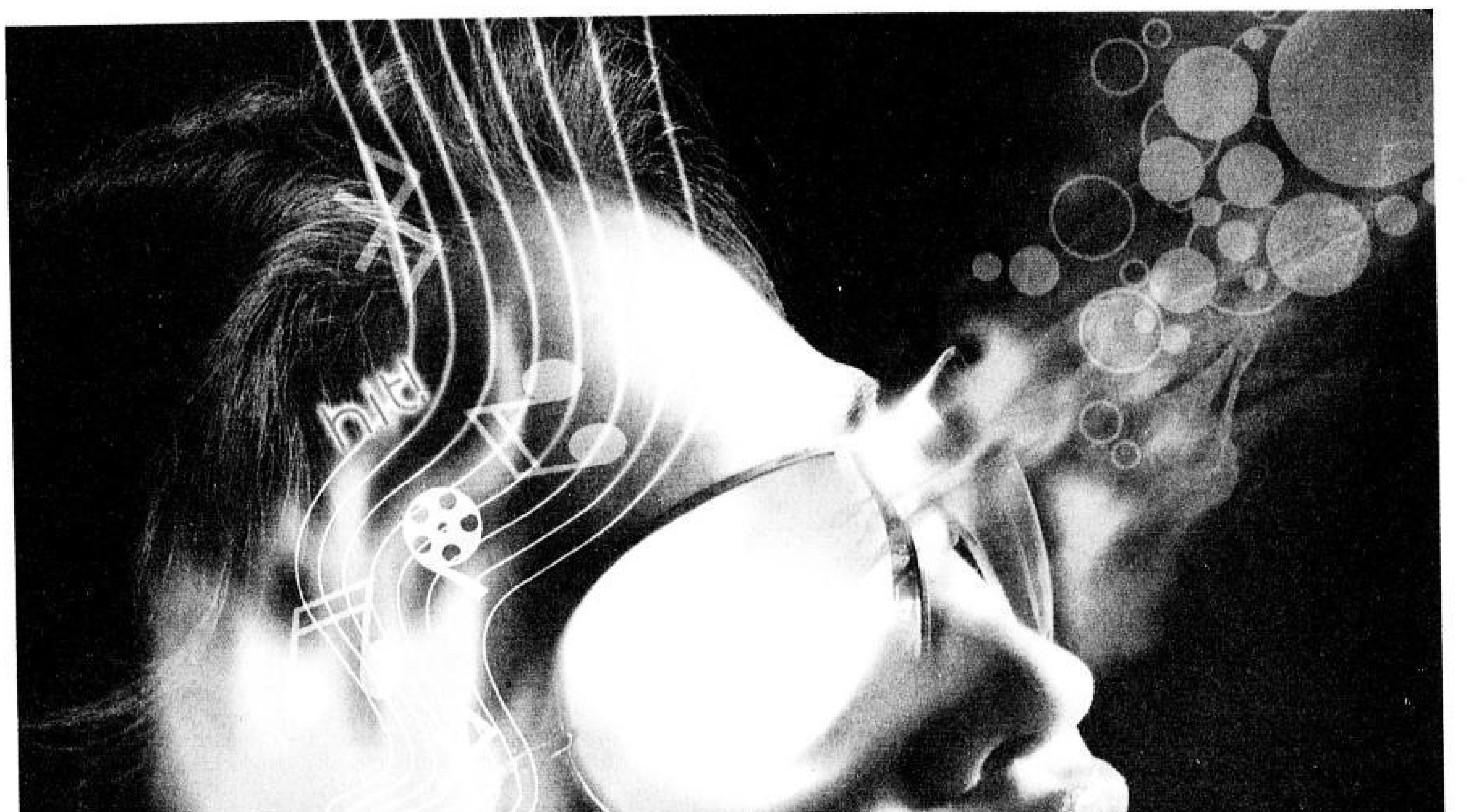
They argued that the sale of the PITC shares in PLDT—recently forfeited in favor of the government by the Sandiganbayan for being ill-gotten assets of the Marcos family and Ramon Cojuangco—will increase foreign ownership in the utility to 67.5 percent.

The SEC's paper, however, showed that 86.32 percent of PLDT's P9.395 billion aggregate authorized capital stock is owned by Filipinos. PLDT attributes the overwhelming Filipino control of the capital stock to the company's subscriber investment plan.

The plan makes all PLDT landline subscribers preferred stockholders who may convert their equity into common shares.

In December, the Sandiganbayan declared the PTIC shares in PLDT to be ill-gotten assets.

The court forfeited the assets in favor of the government, which has since struck a deal with First Pacific to sell the shares for P25.2 billion.



E250

imagine a featured-packed phone that's within your reach

The Samsung E250 not only gives you excellent features, it also takes into consideration your whole wardrobe. It's the perfect phone for every fashionista. It comes in a variety of colors and is packed with really cool features like Bluetooth, MP3, FM Radio and External Video. The E250 is most definitely your phone. With Samsung it's not that hard to imagine. ph.samsungmobile.com

VGA Camera
FM Radio
microSD External Memory
Music Player (MP3 / AAC / AAC+)
Bluetooth 2.0 / USB 1.1
Video Recording & Messaging (H.263 / MPEG4)

SAMSUNG

Samsung Electronics Philippines Corporation Ground Floor, Bonaventure Plaza, Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Samsung Customer Contact Center: TOLL FREE 1-800-10SAMSUNG for PLDT or 1-800-3SAMSUNG for Digitel.

Big business pressuring gov't to lower cost of power — Favila

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—GOVERNMENT ECONOMISTS are ready to bring down power costs due to mounting pressure from big business and, according to one Cabinet secretary, this was no election ploy.

"We are now preparing ourselves to bring [the Philippines] to a higher level of economic reform [by addressing] how to bring down the cost of power. I have to admit [low power rates] are being sought from us by industries," according to Trade Secretary Peter Favila, who was here last week to attend the Philippine Military Academy alumni homecoming.

Favila is an adopted member of PMA "Sandigan" Class 1982.

He said businesses had been vocal about electricity costs because election years were volatile periods for investors who worry about the unpredictability of a power shift.

This time, however, the Malacañang economic team is insulated from the polls, and has targeted electricity rates as its priority.

"We have decided to insulate [the whole economic team] from the business of politics... and that contributed to our success *kasi kapag tinutukan mo ng pulitika iyan mawawala tayo sa direksyon* (because if politics interferes, we will lose our direction)," Favila said.

Election spending

The economic team also advised the government that "during the elections—and I hope [they] understand—*i-ma*-manage *namin iyang* election spending (we will manage election spending). And that could hurt [them]... We're not saying there should be no [administration] spending [during elections], but it should be well-reconciled with our programs," he said.

The economic team is composed of Favila, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya, Socioeconomic Secretary Romulo Neri, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla and Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap.

The trade secretary also said the government needed to address the slow pace of auctioning off, or leasing out state, power facilities, including national transmission lines.

The recent bidding process offered to investors for the country's power distribution hub failed to find a winning investor but the trade secretary said he was able to convince businessmen that the government had pursued its power deregulation agenda in good faith.

Diligence and transparency

"We continue to look at the way we do things... we also get solid feedback from interested parties, we try to match this... to get the best price out of this [sale] for the benefit of the Filipino people," Favila said.

And despite the slow pace of deregulation—investors were concerned about "due diligence" and transparency—something magical was taking place in the Philippines, he said.

Favila was referring to the stock market rise last week.

He said the stock market improved because of two reasons: One, businessmen and government economists assured the public that the country's 2007 budget would not be used to promote administration candidates in the May elections.

And two, the United States pension fund CalPERS (California Public Employees Retirement System) had declared that the Philippines was "in the top five world investment destinations."

"These are the positive reactions to the great [economic] strides we are witnessing... In our 2005 investment growth, we were targeting only a 10 percent [hike in our] annual [exports], we did 14 percent with a $3 billion to $15 billion mark," Favila said.

"We are now preparing ourselves to bring this to a higher level of economic reform [by addressing] how to bring down the cost of power. I have to admit [low power rates] are being sought from us by industries," he added.

Aplus METRO
Website: www.inquirer.net/metro
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

COPYLANDIA
The Total Document Solutions Provider
Invites you to:
Printing & Document Solutions '07
Feb. 20-22, 10 am - 7pm, 3/F Gallery
Feb. 23, 10 am - 7 pm, Rigodon Ballroom
The Peninsula Hotel, Makati City
CALL 7476-888 www.copylandia.com copylandia@copylandia.com

2 Caloocan prisoners shot dead

Warden says suspected gunman rival gang member

By Nancy C. Carvajal

TWO INMATES OF THE CALOOCAN CITY jail were shot and killed on Sunday evening, the latest shooting incident to take place inside the facility in five months.

The suspect in the killing was identified as Bonifacio Bote, 24, a member of Commando, a rival gang inside the prison.

"We are treating the recent occurrence as a gang rivalry but we are digging deeper into the case to see if it is connected to previous incidents," said Supt. Michael Vidamo, who was appointed jail warden after the shooting.

He replaced Supt. Mamerto Delloro upon the order of Chief Supt. Clarito Jover, head of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, who visited the facility several hours after the incident.

Vidamo is the third warden to be assigned to the facility since the shootings began in October.

He identified the victims as Raymund Custodio, 30, said to be the leader of the Sigue-Sigue Sputnik and Rizalino Pangilinan, 44, also a member of the group.

Vidamo said the two victims were sitting in the yard when Bote shot them at close range with a .22 revolver.

Apart from Bote, five other inmates are being questioned about their possible involvement in the incident.

According to the new warden, they were still trying to determine how Bote was able to get hold of the gun.

Vidamo added that the incident was apparently meant to avenge last week's shooting of another gang leader.

In October, a jail guard visiting the facility shot and killed one of the suspects in the robbery-slay of Ralph Ruñez, a camera man of television station RPN-9.

BASTA TUBO i-MOLDEX MO!
sales@moldex.com.ph
373-1000 • 0918-8028888

Fire hits QC apartment, leaves 2 dead

By DJ Yap

TWO PERSONS WERE KILLED IN AN HOUR-long fire that razed a two-story apartment in Quezon City before dawn yesterday.

The victims were locked in an embrace when firefighters found their bodies in the apartment at 74 Mauban St., Barangay Manresa, investigators said.

Fire officials identified one of the victims as William Ang, 48. They were still verifying the identity of the other victim, a woman in her 80s, at press time yesterday.

Based on initial investigation, the fire started at 1:18 a.m. on the ground floor of the two-story structure. It later spread to three other adjoining apartments before it was placed under control at 2:25 a.m., arson investigators said.

"They were the only occupants inside the unit when the fire struck," said FO3 Romeo Benedicto, one of three investigators handling the case. Investigators gave conflicting details on the identity of the woman. One said she was Ang's mother while another identified her as Ang's grandmother.

In the initial report, investigators identified her as "Mrs. Ang, also known as Ama." (Among Chinese families, the grandmother is often called "ah-ma.") A desk officer at the Quezon City fire department said she was Ang's grandmother. But Benedicto told the INQUIRER she was Ang's mother.

The cause of the fire and the official estimate of the damages are still being determined, he added.

Jeepney strike strands commuters

By Julie M. Aurelio

HUNDREDS OF COMMUTERS WERE STRANDED in Parañaque City for several hours yesterday morning as around 2,000 jeepney drivers stopped plying the Baclaran-Sucat route to protest the operation of colorum (illegal) FX taxis in the area.

The jeepney drivers, members of the Alliance of Concerned Transport Organizations-Parañaque chapter led by Efren de Luna, staged a protest in front of City Hall. They demanded that the city government do something about the FX taxis which, according to them, were competing with them for passengers, resulting in decreased income.

De Luna said the FX taxi drivers were charging their passengers a minimum fare of P7, the same rate as jeepneys.

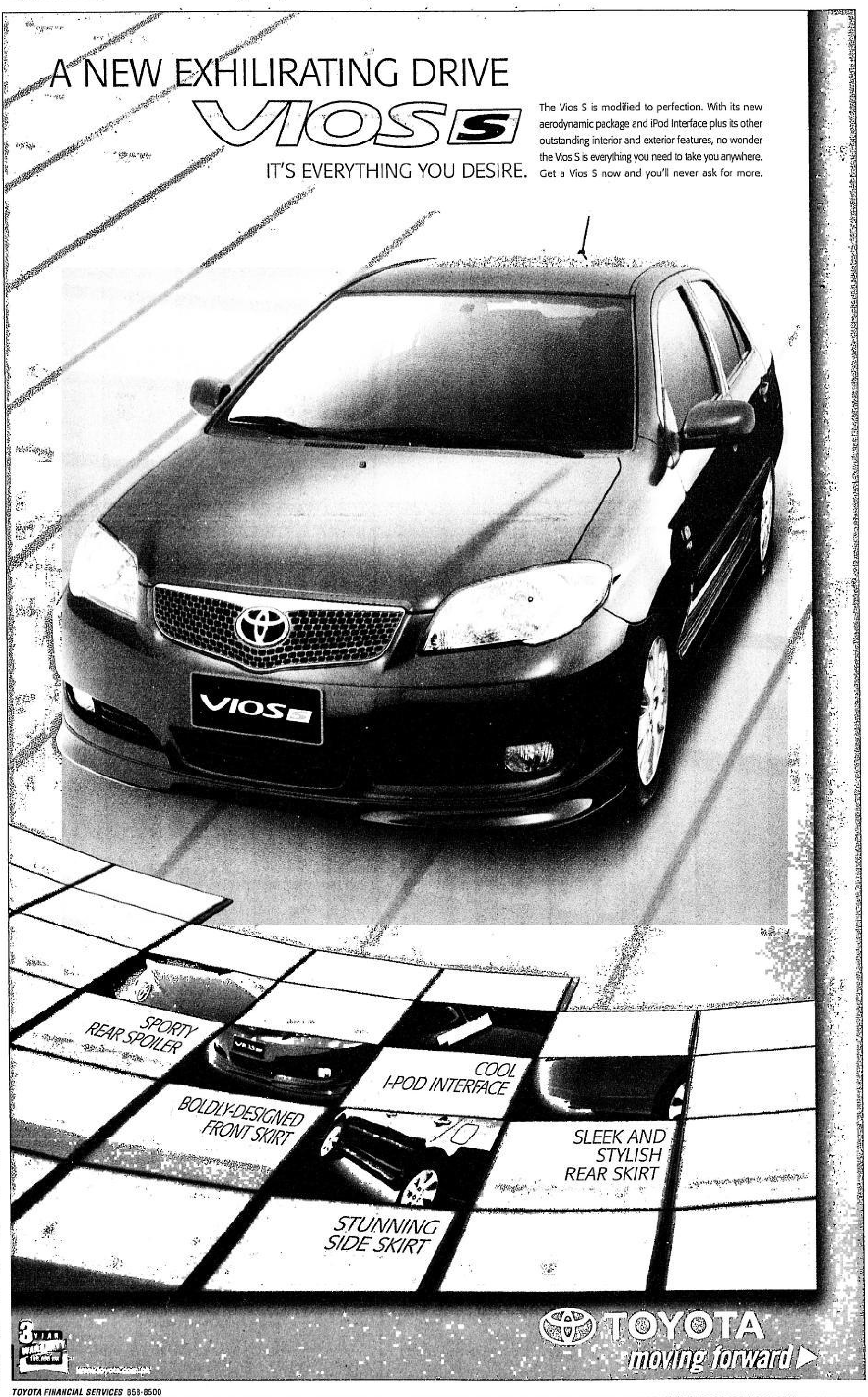
As a result, passengers prefer to ride in the FX taxis which are air-conditioned.

"They are monopolizing the routes that we ply," De Luna said in a phone interview.

But Supt. Ronald Estilles, Parañaque city police chief, denied that the FX taxis in the area were operating illegally.

"These are legal FX taxis with franchises from the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board. The FX cabs have yellow plates," Estilles told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

He added that the FX taxis charge a fare of P10, compared to the jeepney rate of P11 from Baclaran to Sucat.



The Vios S is modified to perfection. With its new aerodynamic package and iPod Interface plus its other outstanding interior and exterior features, no wonder the Vios S is everything you need to take you anywhere. Get a Vios S now and you'll never ask for more.

TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES 858-8500
TOYOTA DEALER NETWORK: TOYOTA ALABANG, INC., 807-0707 TOYOTA BACOLOD CITY, (034) 444-1811 to 13 TOYOTA BAGUIO CITY, (074) 447-0851 / (074) 300-3273 to 74 / (074) 300-4128 / 3825 / (074) 443-6778 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK, INC., 366-8901 to 06 / 364-1547 to 50 / 364-4071 to 75 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK-NORTH, 927-7215 / 17 / 30 / 39 / 927-7242 / 44 / 48 / 52 / 927-7257 / 62 / 65 / 927-7268 / 69 TOYOTA BATANGAS CITY, INC., (043) 723-7386 / (043) 723-7639 TOYOTA BICUTAN PARANAQUE, 777-9500 TOYOTA CABANATUAN CITY, INC., (044) 463-8481 to 87 TOYOTA CAGAYAN DE ORO, INC., (08822) 735-770 / 791 / 846 / (088) 858-8994 / (088) 858-7770 / (08822) 737-480 TOYOTA CEBU CITY, INC., (032) 253-1161 TOYOTA CEBU-MANDAUE, (032) 345-8670 TOYOTA COMMONWEALTH, 952-1021 to 27 TOYOTA CUBAO, INC., 911-0651 to 63 TOYOTA DAGUPAN CITY, INC., (075) 517-2026 to 28 / (075) 522-6771 / 6734/ 4773 TOYOTA DASMARIÑAS CAVITE, (046) 850-2036 / (046) 850-2929 TOYOTA DAVAO CITY, INC., (082) 234-0998 / (082) 234-2994 / (082) 234-8640 TOYOTA ILOILO CITY, INC., (033) 320-6115 to 19 TOYOTA MAKATI, INC., 897-3333 TOYOTA MANILA BAY CORP., 832-3408 to 10 / 832-3432 to 34 / 832-3384 / 832-3437 TOYOTA MARIKINA SERVICE STATION, 682-9701 to 03 TOYOTA OTIS, INC., 564-1811 to 20 TOYOTA PASONG TAMO, INC., 893-8084 TOYOTA QUEZON AVENUE, INC., 712-5001 to 06 TOYOTA SAN FERNANDO, (045) 961-1188 TOYOTA SHAW, INC., 532-4132 / 532-8428 / 534-3009 (telefax) TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS, 671-9854 to 64 / 671-0460

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

CAMARINES SUR PROVINCIAL OFFICE

NOTICE OF COVERAGE

TO ALL CONCERNED REGISTERED OWNERS:

Pursuant to (DAR) Administrative Order No. 02, Series of 2005, in relation to section 7 of RA 6657, and Presidential Decree No. 27, you are hereby notified that the hereunder listed landholdings as indicated are now covered under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform.

	Name of Landowner	Area	Title No./TD No.	Location
1	PEDRO ADUVISO	1.9030	OCT-6892(11)	San Isidro, Bato, C.S.
2	MERITTO TRADING	9.1100	TCT-14014	Luluasan, Balatan, C.S.
3	FE ALMAZAN	9.4811	OCT-2343	Cayogyog, Balatan, C.S.
4	JUANITA ALMAZAN	14.5761	TCT-RT-10220 (2963)	Pararao, Balatan, C.S.
5	LEOPOLDO DYCOCO	8.3421	TCT-RT-7792	Tapayas, Balatan, C.S.
6	CERIACO R. ALFELOR	14.4921	TCT-RT-43 (22287)	Sagrada, Balatan, C.S.
7	COSME O. FOLLOSCO	17.7300	TCT-16589	Laganac, Balatan, C.S.
8	EUGENIA SESNO VDA DE ABARRERA	22.1172	TCT-5763	Cayogyog, Balatan, C.S
9	JOSEFA MANZANO	15.2060	TCT-1566	Topas, Nabua (Before), Pulang Daga, Balatan (Now)
10	JOSEFA ALMEDA	20.7907	TCT-RT-2564 (8370)/Lot 8731-36 (portion)	Labawon, Buhi, C.S
11	BONIFACIO BARBOSA	23.2320	OCT-26384/LOT 7557, 7559	San Antonio, Buhi, C.S.
12	MARIANO INFANTE	7.7158	LOT-6191, CAD 296	San Rafael, Buhi, C.S.
13	FRANCISCO COLIGADO	13.4375	UT	San Pedro, Cabusao, C.S.
14	HRS. OF JUAN AGUILAR	17.6329	UT, SWO-05-001822. Lot-279	Biong, Cabusao, C.S.
15	HRS. OF JUAN AGUILAR	8.3343	UT, SWO-05-001822. Lot-311	Biong, Cabusao, C.S.
16	HRS. OF JUAN AGUILAR	6.7411	UT, SWO-05-001822. Lot-313	Biong, Cabusao, C.S.
17	HRS. OF BASILISA AGUILAR C/O OF EUGENIO AGUILAR	26.2356	UT; Cad-525-D, Lot 348	Pandan, Cabusao, C.S.
18	LORETO CAMALLA	10.3661	UT; CCS-05-000762 (AR)	Pandan, Cabusao, C.S.
19	LORETO CAMALLA	9.5261	UT; CCS-05-000767 (AR)	Pandan, Cabusao, C.S.
20	FRANCISCO COLIGADO	3.2572	UT; LOT 1855	San Pedro, Cabusao, C.S.
21	HRS. OF TRINIDAD MACALALAD-BULAONG	4.7613	UT; LOT 563, CAD-525-D, Case 1	New Poblacion, Cabusao, C.S.
22	PRIMO ROMERO	8.4769	TCT-RT-11746 (8641)	Lugsad, Calabanga, C.S.
23	ALEJANDRO OSI, ET. AL.	37.2632	TCT-29376	Balombon, Calabanga, C.S.
24	LORETO MANUBAY	3.0023	TD-23-275-94/CSD-05-006430/Lot 591 & 4113	Taldid, Canaman, C.S.
25	DR. EMMANUEL M. ALMEDA	30.2618	TCT-RT-3055	San Francisco, Canaman, C.S.
26	DOMINADOR ALMEDA, JR.	10.5718	OCT-RO-406 (1171)	San Francisco, Canaman, C.S.
27	CANDIDA PONS HRS. OF	16.2702	CSD-05-005413 (OLT)	Bagadion, Libmanan, C.S.
28	HRS. OF PAZ PONS OXALES REP. BY EVA OXALES AGAWA	1.8644	BSD-05-005688	Beguito, Libmanan, C.S.
29	HRS. OF PAZ PONS OXALES REP. BY EVA OXALES AGAWA	4.5943	OCT-1160	Beguito, Libmanan, C.S.
30	HRS. OF PAZ PONS OXALES REP. BY EVA OXALES AGAWA	1.8369	PSC-42/Lot 10084	Beguito, Libmanan, C.S.
31	HRS. OF ALBERTO P. OXALES	4.5481	TCT-5048	Beguito, Libmanan, C.S.
32	HRS. OF FELICITAS ZALDIVAR	16.0533	TCT-RT-3001 (2134)/Lot 12685-A	Bical, Libmanan, C.S.
33	JUAN GALGAL	1.9417	CSD-05-007639	Bical, Libmanan, C.S.
34	HRS. OF VICENTE BULAONG	0.7916	CSD-05-004856/LOT 3949-F	Mambulo Viejo, Libmanan, C.S.
35	HRS. OF VICENTE BULAONG	1.8232	CSD-05-004848/LOT 4238 A & B	Mambulo Viejo, Libmanan, C.S.
36	ANTONIO DIALOZO	7.4399	CSD-05-004336	Mambulo Viejo, Libmanan, C.S.
37	ALFREDO DE LA TORRE	7.0299	LOT 5101; CSD-05-006325	Palong, Libmanan, C.S.
38	SILVESTRE VILLEGAS	10.6285	LOT 3319, CSD-05-005785	San Pedro, Libmanan, C.S.
39	CANDIDA PONS HRS. OF	4.0871	LOT 6140, CSD-05-006997	Sigamot, Libmanan, C.S.
40	JOSE SIBULO	5.5162	OCT-11827	Sta. Barbara, Nabua, C.S
41	BENITO LIM	3.2579	TCT-RT-5369 (7420)	Bahay, Pasacao, C.S.
42	BENITO LIM	6.8369	TCT-RT-5368 (7419)	Sta. Rosa del Norte, Pasacao, C.S.
43	HRS. OF LUIS GENERAL	102.3910	OCT-6	Panicuason, Naga City
44	CONSOLACION VERDADERO	7.5491	TCT-13268	Cararayan, Naga City
45	DOROTEO FEDERIS	14.0000	UT	Pacol, Naga City
46	VICENTE A. GUBALLA	11.5943	TCT-8525	Cararayan, Naga City
47	ATTY. JAIME MANUBAY	12.0020	TCT-9023	Carolina, Naga City
48	ATTY. JAIME MANUBAY	5.8036	TCT-7299	Panicuason, Naga City
49	CONSOLACION VERDADERO	5.0012	TCT-12216	Cararayan, Naga City
50	DOROTEO FEDERIS, ET. AL.	21.8637	TD-01-017-0165, 01-017-0213, 01-017-0233, 01-017-0234/Lot 829, 83-, 831 & 860	Pacol, Naga City
51	ROMULO TAYAG	16.1700	OCT-459, LOT 904-A & 904-B	Mangapo, Sipocot, C.S.
52	ROMULO TAYAG	3.6721	OCT-459, LOT 1 (1263), PSU-05-008530	Mangapo, Sipocot, C.S
53	HRS. OF TEOFILO YAMSON	8.9539	OCT-167, 1, PSU-198964, BSD-05-00037	La Purisima, Ocampo, C.S.
54	HRS. OF FLORA TENORIO DE CELINO	45.0000	TCT-11284; 3-D, (LRC), PSD-31154	San Francisco, Canaman, C.S.
55	HRS. OF ESMENIA B. TENORIO	50.0000	TCT-11283, 3-B (LRC), PSD-31154	San Francisco, Canaman, C.S.
56	RODOLFO LIM, ET. AL	103.9535	TCT-11283, 3-B (LRC), PSD-31154	New Monones, Ocampo, C.S.
57	HRS. OF RODOLFO VARGAS	11.2781	TCT-8615, 6-B, PSU-22307	San Antonio, Ocampo, C.S.
58	HRS. OF GABRIEL CORTEZ	26.0850	TCT-17351; B-1, B-9 & B-13	Cabanwan, Ocampo, C.S.
59	FRANCISCO GOPINGCO	14.2169	TCT-5094, A, PSD-64403	Cabanwan, Ocampo, C.S.
60	TERESA BAGAMASBAD	15.1340	TCT-RT-4452, PSD-0520030	San Antonio, Ocampo, C.S.
61	HRS. OF FABIAN CERILLO	21.8070	OCT-9025, H-151818	Sto. Niño, Ocampo, C.S.
62	HRS. OF BIENVENIDO CARAMAT	19.1340	TCT-557 (6775), B, (LRC) PSD-240234	San Antonio, Ocampo, C.S.
63	HRS. OF TORIBIO JOVILLANOS	9.3041	OCT-3785 (24150), 1909, CAD-291	San Antonio, Ocampo, C.S.
64	HRS. OF TORIBIO JOVILLANOS	6.3539	TCT-RT-3837 (6095); HS-48910	Ayugan, Ocampo, C.S.
65	HRS. OF EDMUNDO CEA	42.2363	UT; CSD-05-010661 (AR)	San Roque, Ocampo, C.S.
66	AMELIA & ROMULO RABANO	19.0892	TCT-RT-55 (15662); PSU-127606	Salvacion, Ocampo, C.S.
67	PACITA TENORIO UREA	11.9959	TCT-2986, 2-C-2 (LRC), PSD-227128	San Francisco, Ocampo, C.S.
68	RAFAEL TAYAG & GABRIELA MALLARE	37.4427	OCT-R-899	Cabanwan, Ocampo, C.S.
69	RAFAEL TAYAG & GABRIELA MALLARE	8.6800	OCT-840	Cabanwan, Ocampo, C.S.
70	RAFAEL TAYAG & GABRIELA MALLARE	9.6517	OCT-840	Cabanwan, Ocampo, C.S.
71	ANGEL REDOCILLO	10.0000	UT	San Ramon, Pamplona, C.S.
72	HEIRS OF IRENEO ARENAS	12.8057	OCT-HRP-8493 (1152)	Salvacion, Pamplona, C.S.
73	HRS. OF VIRGINIA PRADO	10.6840	UNTITLED/97-008-00913	Patong, Pamplona, C.S
74	CALIXTO UMALI	9.0000	UT	Poblacion, Pamplona, C.S.
75	EMILIANO MERCADO	10.2493	UT/Lot 587	Poblacion, Pamplona, C.S.
76	JUAN UMALI	7.0000	UT	Poblacion, Pamplona, C.S.
77	LAMBERTO BARTE	8.1667	TCT-180	Batang, Pamplona, C.S.
78	LUIS TUYAY	16.3629	UT	San Gabriel, Pamplona, C.S.
79	LYDIA FUNEVA	14.1153	UT	San Gabriel, Pamplona, C.S
80	PEDRO SABANON	8.8000		Poblacion, Pamplona, C.S.
81	RESTITUTO TRAJANO	22.0000		Salvacion, Pamplona, C.S.
82	ROSENDO VELITO	10.2683	UT	Poblacion, Pamplona, C.S.
83	SALVADOR PEREZ	19.8608		Salvacion, Pamplona, C.S.
84	HRS. OF FELISA ROBLES	7.4844	OCT-RP-116 (9558)	Coco, Pasacao, C.S.
85	ESPERANZA RODRIGUEZ LIM	6.4395	5TCT-RT-11204 (10500)	Ayugan (Now Curry Pili, (Now Ocampo) C.S
86	FELIX RODRIGUEZ	6.4409	TCT-RT-11407 (7749)	Ayugan, Pili, C.S.
87	JUSTINA CHENG, ANTONIA CHENG, DOMINGO, ANICIA AND DOMINGO, JR.	9.3562	TCT-RT-5410 (3609)	Ragay, C.S
88	JUSTINA CHENG, ANTONIA CHENG, DOMINGO, ANICIA AND DOMINGO, JR.	4.8442	TCT-RT-5409 (3608)	Ragay, C.S.
89	JUSTINA CHENG, ANTONIA CHENG, DOMINGO, ANICIA AND DOMINGO, JR.	15.2076	TCT-29036	Ragay, C.S
90	JUSTINA CHENG, ANTONIA CHENG, DOMINGO, ANICIA AND DOMINGO, JR.	1.4889	TCT-RT-5407 (4332)	Ragay, C.S.
91	LORENZA STA. INES	15.4409	OCT-RP-3690 (587)	Ragay, C.S.
92	JUAN STA. INES	12.4035	OCT-HRP 3691 (187)	Ragay, C.S.
93	JUAN STA. INES	11.4797	OCT-HRP 3689 (RP-509)	Ragay, C.S.
94	BEATA STA. INES	22.5696	OCT-HRP 3692 (896)	Ragay, C.S.
95	SIMEON S. HIDALGO	16.2491	OCT NO. 3	Ragay, C.S.
96	STEPHEN DIAZ	9.7257	TCT-T-6157	San Joaquin, San Fernando, C.S.
97	HRS. OF SOTERO DE GUZMAN	0.5410	LOT 609, CAD 360-D/CSD-05-010836 (AR)	Awayan, Sipocot, C.S.
98	CARLOS FERNANDEZ	8.8810	TCT-RT-141 (22196)	Villazar, Sipocot, C.S.
99	NORBERTO LICMOAN	15.0620	OCT-RT-268 (28422)	Calagbangan, Sipocot, C.S.
100	HRS. OF MARCELO RINT	8.0611	OCT-RP-900 (23606), Lot 517, Cad-360-D	Calagbangan, Sipocot, C.S.
101	HRS. OF AURELIO DULUTAN	14.2967	TCT-T-26693	Calagbangan, Sipocot, C.S.
102	LEON TEVES	23.8672	OCT-RP-8448 (13656)	Calagbangan, Sipocot, C.S.
103	AGAPITO NAVARROSA	14.6171	OCT-RP-6985 (20741)	Calagbangan, Sipocot, C.S.
104	HRS. OF AMADO FRANCISCO	34.9314	OCT-RO-423 (622)	Gaongan, Sipocot, C.S.
105	CONCHITA MACATANGAY	10.8824	TCT-10902	Bulawan, Sipocot, C.S.
106	PEDRO CRUZ, ET. AL.	84.9726	TCT-RT-11437 (4789), PSU-8627 Amd (port.)	San Isidro, Sipocot, C.S.
107	RAMON HERNANDEZ	13.0095	TCT-18983	Consocep, Tigaon, C.S.
108	ARAMBULO, PRIMO HRS. OF SOLD TO BIENVENIDO UY	23.7565	OCT-23731; A, PSD-11475	San Roque, Ocampo, C.S.
	FINAL NOTIFICATION TO LANDOWNER			
109	PEDRO ADUVISO	12.2769	OCT-8952 (1498)	San Isydro, Bato, C.S.
110	JUANA M. FACISTOL/CATALINO INFANTE	1.5646	OCT-RP-7999 (4890)	San Pedro, Buhi, C.S.
111	ROMEO C. BERIÑA	6.9886	OCT-26409	San Antonio, Buhi, C.S.
112	DIONESIO RAMOS	1.8034	TD-97-032-00256	Tagpolo, Bato, C.S.
113	DIONESIO RAMOS	0.9296	TD-032-00255	Tagpolo, Bato, C.S.
114	DIONESIO RAMOS	1.1404	TD-97-032-000252	Tagpolo, Bato, C.S.
115	DIONESIO RAMOS	2.1417	TD-97-032-000260	Tagpolo, Bato, C.S.
116	ROSARIO ALISAGO	13.8814	OCT-216	Del Rosario
117	AGAPITA BARRAMEDA	1.7651	TCT-6549	San Juan
118	JULITA MARTINEZ	9.1354	TCT-425	San Vicente
119	SEGUNDO CARIÑO	8.1336	OCT-1427	Buluang
120	ROMAN REPASO	3.2790	TD 002-00120	Bacolod, Bato, C.S.
121	TITO / ELENA CARIÑO	4.6040	TD 001-00461	Agos, Bato, C.S.
122	JUANITA M. INFANTE	2.3657	OCT-10741	Lourdes, Buhi, C.S.
123	JOSEFA ALMEDA	64.7555	UT, LOT 7062, CAD-296	Labawon, Buhi, C.S.
124	JOSEFA ALMEDA	32.3100	TCT-RT-2565 (8369)/Lot 6831-112 (portion)	Labawon, Buhi, C.S
125	JOSEFA ALMEDA	23.2337	TCT-RT-2562 (8367)/Lot 9046	Labawon, Buhi, C.S.
126	JOSEFA ALMEDA	8.8443	LOT 9099	Labawon, Buhi, C.S.
127	JUANITA INFANTE	1.1651	6174, CAD-296	San Rafael, Buhi, C.S.
128	JUANITA INFANTE	0.4051	OCT-9864, LOT-2024, CAD-296	Lourdes, Buhi, C.S
129	JUANITA INFANTE	0.3457	OCT-15237, LOT-2043, CAD-295	Lourdes, Buhi, C.S
130	JUANITA INFANTE	11.2213	OCT-14038; LOT 2186, CAD-296	San Rafael, Buhi, C.S
131	RAMON CACERES	7.3363	LOT 5475, CAD-296	San Isidro, Buhi, C.S.
132	HRS. OF BASILISA AGUILAR	64.6639	PSU-05-006131 (OLT)	Biong, Barcelonita, Cabusao, C.S.
133	HRS. OF PABLO SIBULO	1.4495	ARP-97-043-0380	Sto. Domingo, Calabanga, C.S.
134	HRS. OF PABLO SIBULO	1.7718	ARP-97-043-0391	Sto. Domingo, Calabanga, C.S.
135	FLORENTINO REYES	7.5382	TD-2330/CSD-05-003237	Mangayawan, Canaman, C.S.
136	MAXIMO RACELIS	11.9197	TCT-RT-10413 (939)	Poro, Canaman, C.S.
137	ANGELICA SIBULO	2.6506	ARP-97-03-0167, 97-03-0328 & 97-03-0328/Lot No. 1756-C	Loob, Gainza, C.S.
138	HRS. OF EUTIQUIO ALMEDA	12.8946	CSD-05-004334/Lot 4488	Mambulo, Libmanan, C.S.
139	BENJAMIN RUDICA	2.3416	CSD-05-005512	Palangon, Libmanan, C.S.
140	BENJAMIN RUDICA	4.2166	BSD-05-001562	Palangon, Libmanan, C.S.
141	ARCHBISHOP OF NUEVA CACERES/ROMAN CATHOLIC	11.2990	LOTS-714, 1784 & 2126/CSD-05-005240	San Felipe, Naga City
142	FABIANA AREJOLA/ARCH. OF NUEVA CACERES	3.8643	TD-96-022-0692	San Felipe, Naga City
143	PACITA CARANDANG, ET. AL.	21.5099	TCT-2660, BSD-05-000049	New Monones, Ocampo, C.S.
144	HRS. OF JACINTO BUNYI	12.5409	TCT-RT-977 (6429), BSD-05-004562	Ayugan, Ocampo, C.S.
145	HRS. OF ESPERANZA R. LIM	6.4395	TCT-RT-11204 (10500), BSD-05-003215	San Antonio, Ocampo, C.S.
146	HRS. OF FELIX RODRIGUEZ	6.4395	TCT-RT-4351 (7749), PSD-05-005492 (AR), LOT-3-H	San Antonio, Ocampo, C.S.
147	HRS. OF RENATO VILLAMORA	13.9937	TCT-RT-4351 (11286), 6-B, BSD-05-004010 (AR)	San Antonio, Ocampo, C.S.
148	HRS. OF ALEJANDRO RODRIGUEZ	10.8925	TCT-RT-110207 (7747), 3-B, PSD-05-000367 (AR)	San Antonio, Ocampo, C.S.
149	JOSE TAN	0.6000	UT	Poblacion, Pamplona, C.S.
150	SPS. RAFAEL TAYAG & GABRIELA MALLARE	21.3284	OCT-840, LOT-1202, PSD-05-008356	Sipocot, Camarines Sur
151	HRS. OF GABRIELA TAYAG	18.8257	LOT 1, PSU-93124/PSD-05-008569 (OLT)	Awayan, Sipocot, C.S.
	TOTAL	2127.9765		

The composite team of DAR, Land Bank of the Philippines, Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Barangay/Agrarian Reform Committee, Landowner and the prospective Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries will conduct an investigation on the property. This investigation is purposely made to determine the area to be acquired and the improvements thereon to serve as basis for just compensation. Republic Act No. 6657 provides to landowners the right to choose the area to be retained which shall be compact or contiguous.

Whenever applicable, you have the right or privilege to

1) Apply for an exemption clearance or for exclusion from CARP coverage;
2) Choose your retention area not exceeding five (5) hectares pursuant to Section 6 of R.a. No. 6657;
3) Nominate your children who may qualify as preferred beneficiary/ies to the subject landholding.

Landowners are advised to coordinate with the DAR Municipal Offices where the property is situated within 15 days from publication of this notice for you to select your retained areas. After said period, the DAR shall proceed with the documentation process and shall be the one to choose your retained area.

(Sgd.) LEONITO M. GAVERIA
OIC-PARO II
PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR

(PDI–February 20, 2007)

Higher price for janitor fish

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FISHERMEN MAY DISLIKE THEM and consider them as pests, but the janitor fish which has quickly multiplied in the Marikina River now commands a higher price.

According to an updated city ordinance, the local government will now pay 50 centavos for every janitor fish caught from the river and presented to the Parks Development and Recreation Office.

The local government implemented a similar program two years ago to control the growing number of janitor fish in the Marikina River, depriving other fish not only of nutrients but the space they needed to grow.

The city used to pay 20 centavos for each fish under the old program.

"We decided to increase the price because we want this to become a livelihood project for our residents," Councilor Ferdie Marco, who introduced the ordinance, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The population of the dreaded janitor fish slightly decreased during the first two years of the program but the problem persists, Marco added.

To push the campaign further, Marco said he would organize a contest next month which would give an award to the group with the most number of janitor fish caught.

He added that he would also support the high school student who won in an international competition for his work on turning oil produced by the fish into biofuel.

Raymond Joseph Amurao, 16, a graduate of the Marikina City Science High School, won in a science fair in Indiana, USA in May 2006 for his work on extracting oil from janitor fish which could be used in making soap and biofuel.

---

4 salon employees probed for rob

By Allison W. Lopez

THE POLICE ARE NOW QUESTIONING four employees of a beauty salon in a mall in Malate, Manila where a California city mayor lost almost half a million pesos in cash and other valuables last Friday.

Mayor Lito Atienza also gave Supt. Hilario Orallo, commander of the Manila Police District's Station 9, an ultimatum: Produce the suspects within 72 hours or face the prospect of being relieved from the post.

"I'm giving him a chance to extricate himself from this very embarrassing incident," Atienza said. Police initially suspected that members of the Salisi Gang were behind the theft although they are now also looking into the possibility that the incident was an inside job.

The victim, Davis City Mayor Ruth Asmundson, was in town to give a lecture at Adamson University where she graduated years ago before moving to the United States.

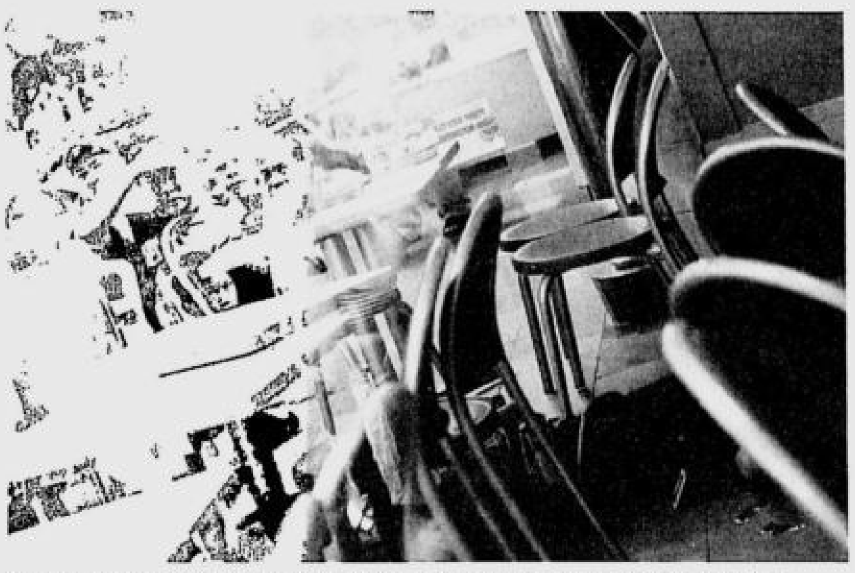
Last Friday, she went to a beauty salon inside Harrison Plaza mall. She was about to pay her bill when she discovered that her wallet, which contained $9,000 in cash, her California driver's license, a credit card and checks, was missing.

Atienza extended his apologies to Asmundson. "I assured her of the actions we have taken to catch the perpetrators," he said. Case investigator SPO4 Patrick de Leon said the victim's lawyer has filed a case against the salon's four employees who were at work when the theft occurred.

DID YOU KNOW

IN 1929, Act No. 3581 of the Philippine Legislature renamed Calle Buenavista in Manila after former Chief Justice Victorino Mapa, who was born on Feb. 25, 1855 in Kalibo, Aklan. Prior to his appointment as chief justice, Mapa had become vice mayor and mayor of Iloilo, associate justice of the Supreme Court and finance secretary. A public high school in Manila was also named after him.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research



A CURIOUS crowd gathers in front of a fast food restaurant in Libertad, Pasay City where a suspected member of a robbery gang was killed in a shootout with policemen. REM ZAMORA

1 dead, 2 rob gang suspects nabbed in Pasay shootout

By Julie M. Aurelio

TWO MEMBERS OF A ROBBERY gang were arrested by policemen yesterday following an early morning shootout in a fast food restaurant in Pasay City which left a third member dead.

Presented to the media in a press conference last night were Joven Junto Jamondina and Harvey Francisco Balanza, members of the Alma robbery-holdup group.

The National Capital Region Police Office, meanwhile, identified the suspect killed in the shootout as Arthur Azuno Amorganza.

Jamondina, who was with Amorganza inside the restaurant, was wounded in the incident. Balanza, on the other hand, was arrested in Las Piñas City during pursuit operations.

At a press conference held in the afternoon at the NCRPO headquarters in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City, Chief Supt. Eric Javier, NCRPO deputy director for operations, said the shootout in the morning was the result of a follow-up operation. Four suspects on board two motorcycles robbed a dentist who had just withdrawn money from an automated teller machine on Roxas Blvd in Pasay City at around 7 a.m, he added. The dentist, whose identity was withheld for security reasons, reported the incident to the police who promptly conducted pursuit operations.

NCRPO Regional Police Intelligence Operation Unit operatives and members of the Southern Police District caught up with the suspects who went inside the restaurant at around 10 a.m. A shootout then ensued after the suspects opened fire on the lawmen, the police added.

The group, led by a woman named Alma, preyed on people who had just withdrawn huge amounts of money from ATMs, police said. Charges of robbery, illegal possession of firearms and violation of the Omnibus Election Code are being readied against the suspects.

Similarities between Marcos and Ms Arroyo

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

REELECTIONIST SEN. RALPH RECTO AND Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr., both candidates in the administration ticket, say each candidate needs at least P120 million to have a fighting chance in the senatorial race.

Recto and Pichay won't have any problem raising that amount for their campaign.

They allegedly have people in a government agency whom they have placed in lucrative posts. Pichay has an added advantage over his fellow candidates since he can reach any part of the archipelago where there is an airport: He has three airplanes.

* * *

President Macapagal-Arroyo seems to care more about what people in other countries think than what her constituents think of her.

Her decision to release the Melo Commission report on the killing of militants and journalists to the European Union and the United Nations, bypassing the Philippine media, shows her low regard for her people and the local media.

One who has lived through the martial law days is reminded of the similarity between the Marcos regime and Ms Arroyo's administration in dealing with the media. Both leaders treated the international press with deference, but regarded Philippine media like trash.

As one who was a journalist during the unlamented Marcos years, I see the writing on the wall for the Arroyo administration.

* * *

I also see a similarity between Mr. Marcos and Ms Arroyo in the way they dealt with the military.

They condoned abuses committed by the military against civilians. Both were afraid that if they reined in the military too much, it might turn against them.

The ranks of the communist New People's Army (NPA) swelled during the martial law years since citizens who were abused joined or sympathized with the rebel group. That's what's happening under the Arroyo administration. Arroyo's abusive military is the NPA's No. 1 recruiter.

* * *

At the height of martial law, the Armed Forces formed the General Headquarters (GHQ) Battalion, composed of troopers from the different services: Army, Navy, Air Force and the defunct Philippine Constabulary.

Every time the GHQ Battalion swooped down on a barrio suspected of being sympathetic to the communist guerrillas, it committed abuses against civilians. Its members foraged the village for food like chickens, pigs and cows without paying their owners.

When the battalion set up camp near a village, some male members of the community were killed by drunken soldiers while women were raped.

* * *

I covered the military and then the police beat during the martial law days and I saw why there were so many abusive military men: Marcos condoned the abuses and didn't retire favorite generals who were already becoming senile.

In the case of Ms Arroyo, she owes the military for turning against Erap and again for helping her win the 2004 presidential election.

The Marcos regime was eventually toppled by a military faction that wanted reform; it was aided by people power.

METRO BRIEFS

Woman killed

A WOMAN whose husband was stabbed to death inside a hospital two months ago was killed in an ambush yesterday afternoon in Manila. Rochelle Francisco and her father, Rodolfo Halili, were inside their van near the corner of Perfecto and Ma. Guizon Streets in Gagalangin, Tondo when when the still unknown assailants fired shots at them. Francisco, who was behind the wheel, was hit several times and died instantly. Halili, on the other hand, was injured in the ambush and remains in critical condition in a hospital.

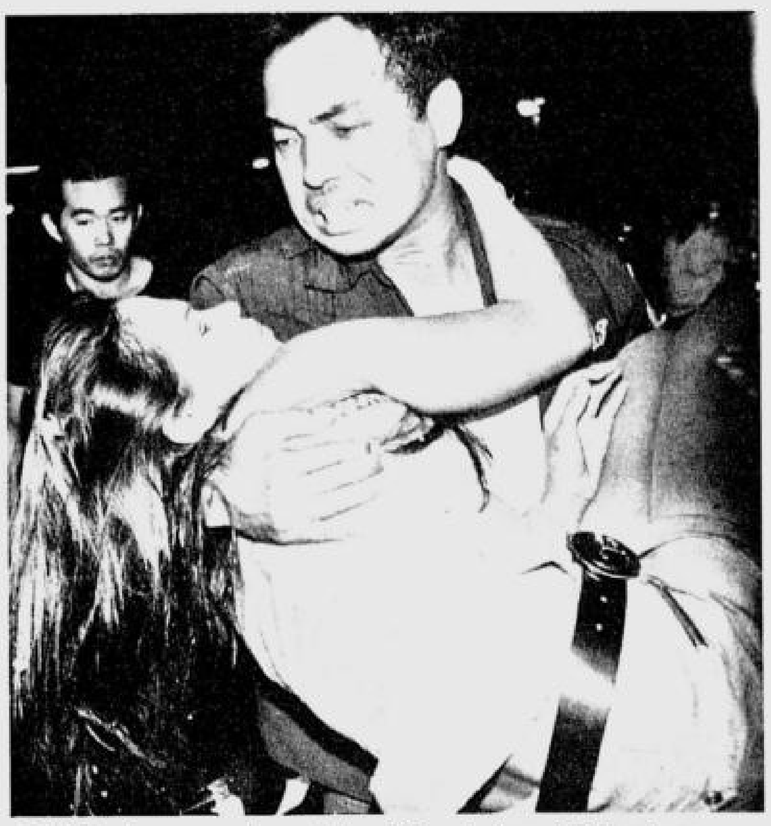
Tina G. Santos

Gotcha!

TWO MEN were arrested yesterday for stealing the cellular phone of a student inside the Wash Galore Laundry and Internet shop on A. Bonifacio Street, Mandaluyong City. The victim, Lailanie Espanola, 20, accused Anthony Cruz and Archie Bustillio of taking her phone while she was using a computer inside the establishment. Bail for the suspects has been set at P12,000 each.

Santiago R. Alcantara

Thais talk crisis after 33 bomb, 44 arson attacks



A THAI volunteer rushes an injured Karaoke bar girl following a bomb blast in Thailand's restive southern Yala province, Feb. 18. AFP

BANGKOK— THAILAND'S leaders held crisis talks Monday a day after dozens of bombings and shootings left eight dead in the Muslim south, where the government has been struggling to contain a 3-year-old rebellion.

Officials said the latest outbreak of violence in the region was aimed at purging the region of non-Muslims, many of whom were celebrating the Lunar New Year when the attacks began late Sunday.

The wave of blasts, shootings and arson attacks also came just days after the military junta said it would accept help from Muslim neighbor Malaysia to try to quell the unrest, which has claimed nearly 2,000 lives since 2004.

Gen. Sonthi Boonyaratglin and Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont summoned military and security chiefs over the violence, which marked the bloodiest day in Thailand since bombs in Bangkok on New Year's Eve killed three.

The government has denied a link between the separatist conflict and the Bangkok blasts, but investigators earlier this month indicated that some suspects in the New Year's bombings could have links to the insurgency.

"They want to frighten Buddhists and ethnic Chinese living there so that they will leave the region," army spokesperson Col. Acar Tiproch said.

Most of the attacks targeted the homes or businesses of ethnic Chinese living in the area along Thailand's southern border with Malaysia, the spokesperson said.

Officials said insurgents had staged 33 bombings, 14 arson attacks and two shootings in Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat provinces since Sunday evening.

Three people were killed in shootings and five others in bombings in the 12 hours of violence, the officials told AFP. A total of 45 people were injured, with 25 of them still in hospital, they added.

The attacks were the biggest in the region since Sonthi staged a bloodless coup that ousted prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra on Sept. 19.

The takeover by Sonthi, himself a Muslim, had sparked hopes for a breakthrough in the unrest, which Thaksin was accused of exacerbating with his iron-fisted tactics.

Despite a raft of peace initiatives taken by the government installed by Sonthi, the violence has escalated over the last four months.

Surayud agreed Friday to accept a Malaysian offer to help in setting up peace talks with the shadowy insurgents.

Sunai Phasuk, an analyst for Human Rights Watch based in Bangkok, called the latest attacks a "direct challenge to cooperation between Malaysia and Thailand." The region was an ethnic Malay sultanate until mainly Buddhist Thailand annexed it a century ago. Separatist violence has erupted periodically ever since.

The insurgents frequently attack targets that they believe represent Bangkok's efforts to impose Buddhist Thai culture on the region.

Some leaders of an outbreak of violence in the 1980s have expressed a willingness to join talks, but the latest attacks highlighted the divide between the older rebels and the young militants, Sunai said.

"Some of the political leaders may agree to talk to the Thai government, but those behind the attacks don't want to talk to the Thai government," the analyst said.

"The motive is to pressure the Buddhist Thais, including the Chinese, to get out of the south," said Sunai.

"The attacks last night will have a serious impact on the progress made by the new government." *AFP*

Al-Qaida rebuilding effective terror network, US intel officials say

WASHINGTON—SENIOR LEADers of al-Qaida operating from Pakistan have reestablished significant control over their once battered worldwide terror network and over the past year have set up a band of training camps in the tribal regions near the Afghan border, according to US intelligence and counterterrorism officials.

US officials said there was mounting evidence that Osama bin Laden and his deputy, Ayman al-Zawahri, had been steadily building an operations hub in the mountainous Pakistani tribal area of North Waziristan.

The United States has identified several new Qaida compounds in North Waziristan. Officials said that both US and foreign intelligence services had collected evidence leading them to conclude that at least one of the camps in Pakistan might be training operatives capable of striking Western targets.

US analysts said recent intelligence showed that the compounds functioned under a loose command structure and were operated by groups of Arab, Pakistani and Afghan militants allied with al-Qaida. They receive guidance from their commanders and al-Zawahri, the analysts said. Bin laden, who has long played less of an operational role, appears to have little direct involvement.

Officials said the training camps had yet to reach the size and level of sophistication of the Qaida camps established in Afghanistan under Taliban rule. But groups of 10 to 20 men are being trained at the camps, the officials said, and the Qaida infrastructure in the region is gradually maturing.

Officials from several different US intelligence and counterterrorism agencies presented a consistent picture in describing the latest developments as a major setback to US efforts against al-Qaida.

"The chain of command has been reestablished," said one US government official, who said that the Qaida "leadership command and control is robust."

During a news conference days before last November's elections, Bush said of the campaign against al-Qaida: "Absolutely, we're winning. Al-Qaida is on the run."

But in a speech several days ago, Bush painted a more sober picture of al-Qaida's current strength, especially inside Pakistan. "Taliban and al-Qaida figures do hide in remote regions of Pakistan," Bush said.

Officials said that the United States still had little idea where bin Laden and al-Zawahri had been hiding since 2001, but that the two men were not believed to be present in the camps currently operating in North Waziristan.

Analysts said that North Waziristan became a hub of militant activity last year, after Gen. Pervez Musharraf, the Pakistani president, negotiated a treaty with tribal leaders in the area. He pledged to pull troops back to barracks in the area in exchange for tribal leaders' ending support for cross-border attacks into Afghanistan.

But officials in Washington say the agreement has largely been a failure. *NYT*

Bahamas immigration minister resigns over photos with Smith

NASSAU, BAHAMAS—IMMIGration Minister Shane Gibson resigned Sunday night in a flap over his relationship with Anna Nicole Smith, apologizing to the Bahamian people for any embarrassment he may have caused the country.

Photos recently appeared in a Bahamas newspaper showing Gibson in bed and embracing the former Playboy Playmate, who died on Feb. 8 in Hollywood, Florida. They were fully clothed, but the pictures stoked a controversy because Gibson had fast-tracked Smith's application for permanent residency on the island chain.

"I want to apologize to all persons who may in any way have been offended by anything that I have said, done, or perceived to have said or done," Gibson said on state TV, declared he was resigning.

However, Gibson denied any wrongdoing and said he did not have a sexual relationship with Smith.

Prime Minister Perry Christie said he accepted Gibbon's resignation.

Gibson stated emphatically during a special broadcast on the national television station that although he was stepping down, he was not admitting to any accusations against him, calling them "vicious and wicked lies."

SMITH in a 2005 photo. AP

"I unconditionally deny that I ever abused my ministerial office by granting Anna Nicole Smith any permit of which she was undeserving or for which she was not qualified under the laws of the Bahamas," he said.

The Tribune of Nassau on Feb. 12 published two photographs on its front page showing Smith and Gibson embracing on a bed decorated with pink flowers and a white ribbon. The newspaper said the photos were taken in Smith's bedroom and that it obtained them from an unidentified source.

G. Ben Thompson, a South Carolina developer who once dated Smith, has said he did not give Smith the Bahamas house as a gift as her lawyers have asserted. Thompson is attempting to reclaim the $900,000 waterfront mansion.

Howard K. Stern, Smith's companion, has been living in the house with Smith's daughter, Dannielynn, who was born in September in a Bahamas hospital.

Days after the baby was born, Smith's 20-year-old son Daniel Smith died under mysterious circumstances in a Bahamas hospital room while visiting his mother. A coroner hired by Smith's family said Daniel died from a lethal combination of drugs, including methadone. An inquest into his death is scheduled to begin here on March 27.

Several men claim to have fathered the baby girl, who could potentially inherit a multimillion-dollar fortune. Since the death in 1995 of her 90-year-old husband, Texas oil tycoon J. Howard Marshall II, Smith had been waging a court battle over his estate.

A birth certificate lists Stern as the girl's father. But Smith's former boyfriend Larry Birkhead has gone to court in Florida in pursuit of DNA testing to prove he is the father. And Prince Frederic von Anhalt, the husband of actress Zsa Zsa Gabor, has said he had a decade-long affair with Smith and will file his own paternity challenge. *AP*

US church may declare bankruptcy over sex suits

SAN DIEGO—THE ROMAN Catholic Diocese of San Diego said in a letter to parishioners this weekend that it is considering declaring bankruptcy to avoid going to trial on more than 140 lawsuits alleging sexual abuse by priests.

The pastoral statement, signed by Bishop Robert Brom, said if fair settlements cannot be reached with abuse victims, "the diocese may be forced to file a Chapter 11 reorganization in bankruptcy court." Chapter 11 refers to a section of the US bankruptcy code.

The California diocese is concerned "that settlements not cripple the ability of the Church to accomplish its mission and ministries," the letter said.

If the diocese files for bankruptcy, it would become the fifth in the United States to seek protection in the clergy sex abuse scandal. Under such bankruptcy, a court supervises the reorganization of the diocese's contractual and debt obligations.

An attorney for the San Diego plaintiffs said the bankruptcy filing "would be a sham and frivolous." *AP*

Study finds new autism genetic links

WASHINGTON—SCIENTISTS REvealed the most extensive findings to date on the genetics of autism on Sunday, pinpointing two new genetic links that may predispose children to develop the complex brain disorder.

The five-year study, led by an international consortium of researchers from 19 nations, indicated autism had numerous genetic origins rather than a single or a few primary causes.

The researchers scoured DNA samples from 1,168 families with two or more children with autism, and used "gene chip" technology to detect genetic similarities. They also looked for tiny insertions and deletions of genetic material that could play a role in autism.

The scientists hope that nailing down the genetics of autism will lead to better ways to diagnose it and focus efforts on developing drugs to treat it. They announced they are launching a new phase in the research to map genes responsible for autism.

The study incriminated a gene called neurexin 1 involved with glutamate, a brain chemical previously implicated in autism that plays a role in early brain development, as a possible susceptibility gene for autism. A previously unidentified region of chromosome 11 also was implicated.

Autism is a spectrum of disorders apparently stemming from genetic and environmental causes. Geneticist Stephen Scherer of the University of Toronto and the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto said 90 percent of autism may have a genetic basis.

"What we have now that we didn't really have before is a pretty decent understanding of what the genetic architecture is looking like in the autism genome," said Scherer, who worked on the study published in the journal Nature Genetics.

Autistic children have problems with social interaction and verbal and nonverbal communication, as well as repetitive behaviors such as rocking and twirling or narrow and obsessive interests. These behaviors can vary in severity from mild to disabling.

Autism appears in early childhood, often as young as age 2 or 3, and affects four times as many boys as girls.

"It's such a perplexing issue and it's so serious for the children," said University of Pittsburgh researcher Bernie Devlin, who helped lead the study.

Some advocacy groups believe too little attention is given to environmental factors they believe may contribute to autism, like mercury.

A problem in autism research has been that some studies have been based on data from relatively few people. In this study, more than 120 researchers from Europe and North America pooled efforts and expanded the number of people studied.

"Most researchers tend to work in their own world, collect their own set of families to study genetic disorders, and not share," said Rita Cantor, a University of California-Los Angeles geneticist involved in the study.

US federal health experts this month called autism an urgent public health concern that is more common than previously estimated. They said it affects about one in 150 US children.

The research was funded by the nonprofit group Autism Speaks and the US National Institutes of Health.

"I think the most important thing that the study shows is that the genetic causes of autism are likely to be varied," said Andy Shih, chief science officer for Autism Speaks. "The genetic mechanism involved is probably not uniform." *Reuters*

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
TAISEI PHIL. CONSTRUCTION, INC. 23/F Equitable Bank Tower, 8751 Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village, Makati City	Koichi Akahane	Project Manager
KEPCO ILIJAN CORPORATION 18/F Citibank Tower, 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village, Makati City	Jo Hyoung Lee	General Manager, Maintenance Group
KEPCO PHILIPPINES CORPORATION 18/F Citibank Tower, 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village, Makati City	Choonsik Jung	Manager
KEPCO PHILIPPINES CORPORATION 18/F Citibank Tower, 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village, Makati City	Hyoungsik Moon	General Manager, Planning and Admin Group
KEPCO ILIJAN CORPORATION 18/F Citibank Tower, 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village, Makati City	Kyu Byeng Hwang	Vice President
KEPCO ILIJAN CORPORATION 18/F Citibank Tower, 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Village, Makati City	Hyung Joon Youn	Manager, Instrumentation & Control Department
MAKATI SHANGRI-LA HOTEL & RESORT INC. Cor. Ayala Ave., & Makati Ave. Makati City	Kam Wing Yip	Dimsum Chef
PROXIMITY FUNDING PHILS. FOUNDATION INC. Unit E. Alexander Townhouse, Mon-El Ave., San Antonio, Parañaque City	Olivier Bernard Albert Carbon	President
ASAHI SHIMBUN COMPANY Unit 1108 Robinson Summit Center, 6783 Ayal Ave., Makati City	Aya Kimura	Chief Representative
HARSH ATTI LENDING & TRADING CO. L&B Compound, 11 Apt. 9 Main Road, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Chandi Gohil	General Manager
MTM ENGLISH.COM PHILS., INC. U-2606 Prestige Condo., F. Ortigas Jr. Rd., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Soyoung Lee (w/o Wang)	Marketing Manager
SYKES ASIA INC. 26/F Robinsons Summit Center, 6783 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Hyemi Park	Korean Client Support
DELL INTERNATIONAL SERVICES PHILIPPINES INC. 27/F RCBC Plaza Tower 2, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., cor. Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ritesh Bhatia	Site Leader
AMBAK TRADING INC. Unit 7 Aurora Arcade, Isidora Hills, Brgy. Holy Spirit, Quezon City	Okyu Lee (w/o Kim)	Accountant
SYKES ASIA INC. 26/F Robinsons Summit Center, 6783 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Hao Wang	Mandarin Client Support

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI – February 20, 2007)

Blasts, fire kill 66 in India-Pakistan train

DEEWANA, INDIA—TWO HOMEMADE BOMBS exploded aboard a train bound from India to Pakistan sparking a fire that killed at least 66 passengers on Monday in what the Indian government called an "act of terrorism."

Most of the victims were Pakistanis but included some Indians and three railway policemen, said officials who described the attack as an apparent attempt to undermine the peace process between the nuclear-armed rivals.

Two other unexploded homemade bombs were also found on the train.

Television pictures showed one large plastic suitcase with wires and a plastic bottle attached. Another was stuffed with plastic bottles, which officials said contained some kind of flammable liquid.

Police said while the explosions were small, they were apparently intended to cause a deadly fire on at least four of the train's coaches.

"It's sabotage—it's an act of terrorism like the one in Mumbai," Railways Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav told reporters, referring to serial bomb blasts in Mumbai last July that killed 186 people.

Like all Indian trains, most of the windows in the lower class compartments were barred with metal rods, meaning many people were trapped inside the train.

One survivor said passersby pulled some survivors out of one of the few windows that did not have rods. Local villagers also rushed to the scene to try and break open the bars. "I took a visa to come to India and see relatives, but I never realized it would become the last journey for my family," said Tara Chand, whose three sons and two daughters are missing and feared dead.

He was returning to Pakistan after a month in India.

At least 13 people were also injured, with several arriving at a New Delhi hospital, their faces burnt and bandaged.

Two coaches of the Samjhauta Express train, which connects New Delhi to the northern Pakistani city of Lahore, erupted in flames near Deewana town, about 80 km north of the Indian capital, around midnight on Sunday night.

Carriages were blackened and gutted with the heat of the fire.

"I haven't seen anything like this, some bodies were burnt beyond recognition, and I saw one pair stuck to each other at the stomach," railway police inspector Shiv Ram told Reuters.

The rest of the train, which had been carrying around 600 passengers, continued on Monday to the border town of Attari after the burnt coaches had been detached. Passengers were due to alight there and transfer to a Pakistani train.

Relatives gathered at Old Delhi railway station for news of family members. A bulletin board had the names of the 13 injured passengers, but little news on the dead.

"My mother, father and brother are on the train. They went to Attari for a wedding," said Israel Mohammed, tears streaming down his face. "I am trying to call them on their mobiles but their mobiles are not working."

The incident came days before Pakistani Foreign Minister Khursheed Mehmood Kasuri was due in New Delhi for talks with Indian leaders to push forward the slow-moving peace process.

"The aim is clear," Yadav told a news conference in his home city of Patna. "It is to put hurdles into the path of the peace process that has started between the two neighboring countries—India and Pakistan."

Pakistan's government said the attack was unlikely to derail Kasuri's visit and said it was in touch with Indian authorities.

India's foreign ministry said it was doing everything it could help Pakistani relatives of the victims and would issue visas urgently to those who wanted to visit.

The attack happened just days before the fifth anniversary of a fire on a train carrying Hindu pilgrims that killed 59 people in Godhra in the western state of Gujarat, and sparked communal riots in which around 2,500 people died, most of them Muslims.

Reuters

A POLICEMAN inspects a burnt compartment of the Samjhauta Express after fire raked through it as it was traveling to Pakistan, at Deewana village in India on Feb. 19.

AP

Baghdad bombings kill 60, deal first blow to US-led security plan

BAGHDAD—A DOUBLE CAR bombing ripped through a crowded Baghdad market Sunday, killing at least 60 people and wounding more than 130 in a first vicious blow to the city's new US-led security operation.

"Where is the security plan?" wailed distraught relatives crowded outside the Iraqi capital's Kindi Hospital, as fleets of ambulances and civilian trucks ferried the dead and dying into an overworked emergency room.

Kindi received 42 corpses—including 10 children aged between five and 10—and was treating 83 seriously wounded patients, medics said.

Ibn Nafees Hospital saw 14 dead and 20 critically injured men, women and children, a medic there said. The doctors warned that these figures would rise and a security official put the latest toll at 60 dead.

A first explosion ripped through a crowded vegetable market in Baghdad Jadida, a mixed but mainly Shiite district of east Baghdad.

At almost the same moment, another booby-trapped car detonated a few hundred meters away near a row of electrical goods shops.

Desperate bystanders scoured the blackened debris for wounded loved ones, while shell-shocked bystanders loaded the injured into civilian vehicles.

In a separate attack in nearby Sadr City, a suicide car bomber attacked a checkpoint manned by Iraqi police commandos, killed one policeman and one civilian bystander and wounded 11 more, a security official said.

Earlier, an unidentified sniper shot dead three civilians shopping in the Fadhel district of the city, according to a defense official.

Separately, the US military announced its first casualties since the launch of the plan—two soldiers killed in north Baghdad on Saturday, one by an insurgent's grenade, the other by small arms fire.

Car bomb attacks in east Baghdad are the hallmark of Sunni extremists targeting Shiite civilians in the Iraqi capital's vicious sectarian war.

Last Monday, at least 79 people were killed in similar attacks on Shiite markets, but the violence had tailed off since the launch of a large-scale security operation by US and Iraqi forces on Wednesday.

Shortly before the blasts, the commander of Iraqi forces involved in the operation, General Abboud Gambar, had toured parts of Baghdad Jadida with reporters to demonstrate the progress made by his forces.

"I want to tell the people, from this place, that security is coming to Baghdad," Gambar told reporters. "We will chase the terrorists out of Baghdad."

AFP

In Asia, patients diagnosed with GASTROESOPHAGEAL REFLUX DISEASE or GERD have increased to 14-16% in the last decade.[1]

AstraZeneca

cares

AstraZeneca is number one in the treatment of gastrointestinal disorders, particularly acid-related diseases in the Philippines.[2]

References: 1 Sollano JD, et al. Erosive esophagitis in the Philippines: A comparison between two time periods. J Gastroenterol Hepatol 2006. Published on-line, doi:10.1111/j.1440-1746.2006.04355.x. 2 Intercontinental Medical Statistics (IMS) Data, November 2006.

AstraZeneca
AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals (Phils.)
Km 14 South Superhighway, Parañaque City 1700 Philippines
Tel. No. (632) 777 8700 www.astrazeneca.com

Internal Anti-Ageing

ABW™
Leaves of Life
(Alfalfa - Barley - Wheatgrass)

100% NATURAL AND ORGANIC HEALTH SUPPLEMENT

NATURE'S SUPER ANTI-OXIDANTS AND NUTRITIONAL POWERHOUSES

ABW™ – Leaves Of Life is the first and only 100% natural and certified organic anti-oxidant health supplement with the combined nutritional goodness of Alfalfa, Barley and Wheatgrass Spelt – the Power Of Three.

ABW is a super anti-oxidant and nutritional powerhouse containing Superoxide Dismutase (SOD), an internal anti-aging and anti-cancer enzyme. ABW neutralizes damaging free radicals and helps prevent a wide range of degenerative diseases and sicknesses by acting like an internal anti-aging agent.

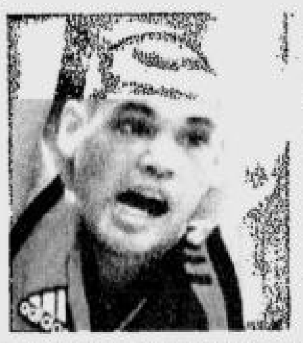
ABW is the next generation nutriceutical providing multiple natural sources of minerals, vitamins, proteins, enzymes, chlorophyll, amino acids and phytonutrients necessary to sustain our daily energy requirements. ABW assists in achieving optimum well-being and good health by harmonizing and regulating our body's alkaline levels. This ensures the maximum absorption and utilization of the vitamins and nutrients found in the food and other supplements we consume.

ABW helps detoxify and restore the acid-alkaline balance in our body. ABW promotes deep and sound sleep to help us recharge and rejuvenate and increases natural energy and vitality in our daily life.

ABW – the Power Of Three – Alfalfa, Barley & Wheatgrass Spelt.

AVAILABLE AT: mercury drug stores nationwide
AND OTHER REPUTABLE PHARMACIES
From the people who brought you C-Lium Fibre
DISTRIBUTED BY: PHILUSA CORPORATION

TXT 4 INFO: 0916 741 0346 E-MAIL: info@abwhealth.com WEB: www.abwhealth.com



WHAT'S INSIDE

PBA asks
Chot: Name RP 5 by Friday
/A24

SPORTS

Website: www.inquirer.net/sports

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

PAL INTERCLUB

Del Monte seeks repeat of 2004 feat

By Ernesto A. Gonzales

CAGAYAN DE ORO—CANLUBANG CAPTURED its leading total of 13 men's regular titles in the Philippine Airlines Interclub championship when its promising stars from Davao exploited their familiarity with the Apo course last year.

Del Monte hopes to follow the same formula when the 60th edition of what is known as the national golf team championship starts on Wednesday with the heavily-wooded old course in Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon, where Frankie Miñoza learned the sport, serving as co-host with the modern Pueblo de Oro course here.

"We'll try to exploit our home course advantage," said Del Monte playing skipper Yoyong Velez of his boys, who will try to repeat their breakthrough win in 2004 where they produced a record output of 156 points from a 12-under-par total score by their four top players in the first round.

"The plan is to field only the players who play well at Del Monte for two rounds and assign the rest to Pueblo," said Velez, a single-digit handicapper who is a lawyer in charge of legal and labor relations of Del Monte Phils.

Canlubang used the same ploy in posting a six-point win over Manila Southwoods last year as their recruits from Davao struck hardest in the final round at Apo where they started as caddies.

With Jay Bayron as spearhead, Canlubang is a natural favorite over youth-laden Southwoods and Del Monte, which has discarded Iggy Clavecilla and Marty Ilagan in favor of two youngsters from its jungolf program—Banny Abanio and Belem Arangcon.

"We have a good shot at the title," said team manager Luigi Yulo Sunday after helping the Canlubang elders to a second straight Seniors title despite the disqualification of star Tommy Manotoc for signing a wrong scorecard.

Joining Bayron, the reigning amateur champion and low scorer in his division in the last Philippine Open, are veterans Jun Bernis, Boyet Saragoza, Dave Hernandez and former Davao bag-toters Jonel Ababa, brothers Mario and Joseph Labajo, Rufino Bayron and Mark Fernando.

Del Monte will again rely on Frankie's brothers Paul and Ben Miñoza, Joel Opaco, Jett Plete, Romeo Jaraula, Tristan Tabanas, Arsenio Mondilla and Velez.

Gone from this crack lineup are Louie Dacudao, who turned pro recently, and Roger Retuerto's son Lino, who is still recuperating from an injury.

Asian Games bronze medalist Michael Bibat and national teammate Gene Bondoc headline the Southwoods squad that also include Tonlits Asistio, Anthony Fernando, Jong Laput, Miko Alejandro, Erwin Vinluan, and Miko Yee and his 10-year-old brother Miggy, who looms as the youngest player to see action in this tournament.

"Formidable," Yulo said of Southwoods' lineup, but he noted that his boys have also improved a lot through exposure to more tournaments.

He said Del Monte will also pose the same threat as in 2004 when it became the first team from Mindanao to rule the regular competition.

The format calls for each team to field 10 players who will see action for only 36 holes. Five players see action each day with the top four scores counting under the PAL point system that gives a point for bogey, two for par, three for birdie, four for eagle and five for an ace.

Decision on who will play in Wednesday's first round at Del Monte will be made during the team captains' meeting after the ceremonial tee-off.

Action Asia, Airbus, Boeing, Bombardier, Callaway Golf, 105.1 Crossover, GE Aviation, Gecas, Mizuno, People Asia and Royal Caribbean are the major sponsors.

Business Mirror, Fortune Tobacco, GMA 7, Premier Wine and Spirits, Inquirer.net and Radio Mindanao Net, whose local stations DXCC is currently celebrating its 55th anniversary are the corporate sponsors.

The other backers are Century Park Hotel, C-Lium Fibre, Foreign Post, Lufthansa Technik Philippines and What' On & Expat Communications.

Pacman starts training for April fight A22

PACQUIAO
WBC

The most requested real estate topics–now on its 30th offering!!

INVESTING IN REAL ESTATE:
Opportunities, techniques & need-to-learn knowledge
Mar 5, 1:30-6 pm, 2nd Flr., Max's Rest., near Glorietta 2, Ayala Cntr, Mkti

SCHEDULE OF OTHER TOPICS
(Each topic may be attended separately)

Mar 7 JOINT VENTURES FOR REAL ESTATE PROJECTS
Mar 9 MANAGEMENT OF RENTAL PROPERTIES
Mar 12 LEGAL ASPECT OF SALE, MORTGAGE & LEASE WITH CONTRACT DOCUMENTATION AND REGISTRATION
Mar 14 HOW TO START & MANAGE A SUCCESSFUL REALTY OFFICE
Mar 16 PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT W/ HLURB RULES & UPDATES
Mar 19 MAKING BIG MONEY IN DISTRESSED PROPERTIES
Mar 21 TAXATION of REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

For more details, call 681-0928 or email: urbanet@pacific.net.ph
Or simply text your name, fax no or email address to CP# 0916-426-9174
URBAN INSTITUTE OF REAL ESTATE

Top servings

Montiel holds public workout /A22

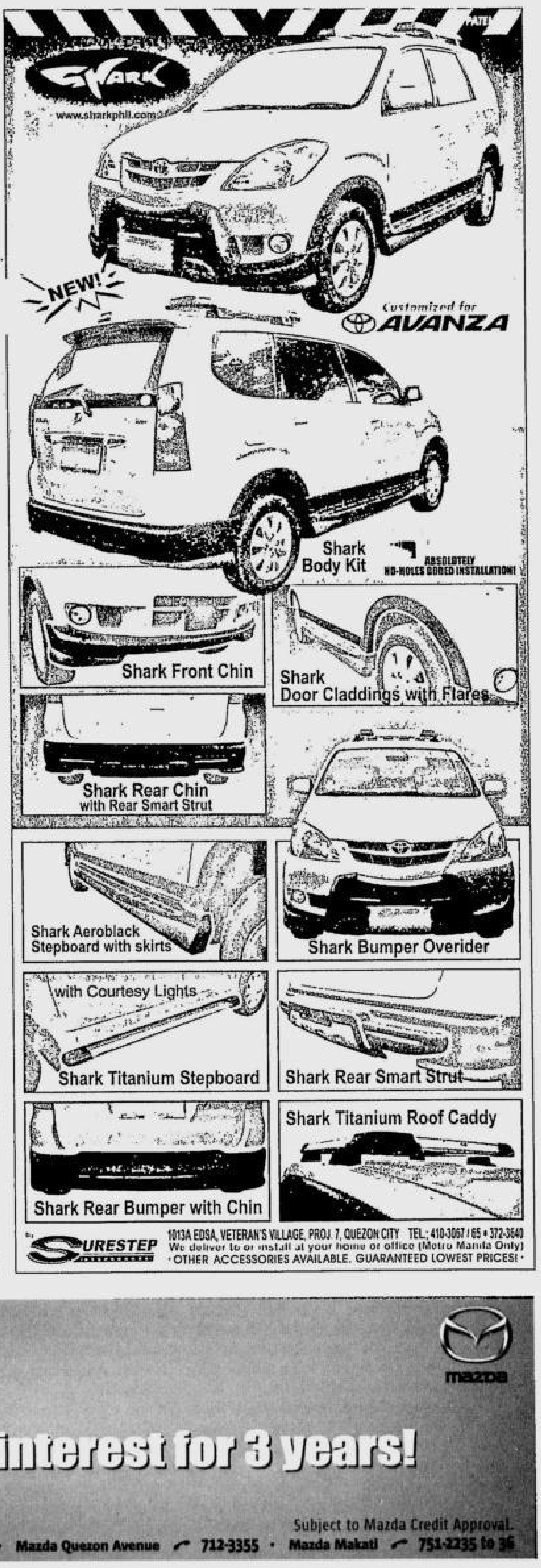
Bryant shines as West tramples East /A23

Murrays make ATP history /A23

Eclectic mix does it for Harbour /A24

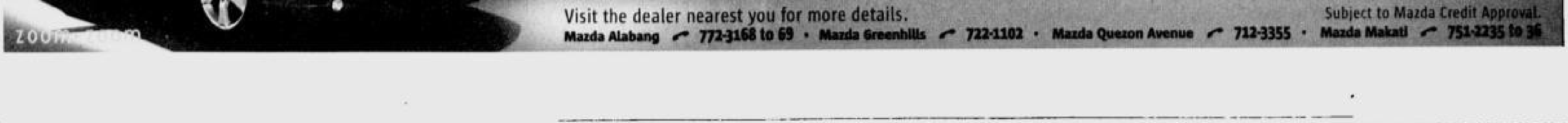
United Auctioneers, Inc.
INSPECTION DATES: FEB. 19, 20 & 21, 2007
INSPECTION & REGISTRATION IS ON GOING...
AVAILABLE ON-LINE PRE-REGISTRATION!
BEST EQUIPMENT PRICE QUALITY DEAL!!
"NO MINIMUM PRICE"
3-DAY PARADE AUCTION
FEBRUARY 22, 23 & 24, 2007
THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY
SALE START AT 8:30 A.M. SHARP
The PREMIER SOURCE of EQUIPMENTS for your BUSINESS NEEDS!
BLDG. 1455 ARGONAUT HIGHWAY, TEL. NOS: (047) 252-1129 * 252-1155 TO 58 * (02) 920-0810
SUBIC BAY FREEFORT, PHILIPPINES (02) 711-5270 * CEL NOS: (0917) 7262824 * (0917) 8187000
FAX NO.: (047) 252-5569 E-MAIL: uasubic@uai.gotdns.com * WEBSITE: www.uasubic.gotdns.com
TRUCKS & EQUIPMENT FINANCING AVAILABLE THRU ORIX METRO LEASING & FINANCING CORP. TEL. (02) 888-8888

LGP
CATERPILLAR D5H
W/BREAKER LINE
KOMATSU PC200-1
25 TONS
KATO ROUGH TERRAIN CRANE
TCM 75B
LATE MODEL
ISUZU 10W TRACTOR HEAD
ISUZU 10W MIXER TRUCK
LATE MODEL
ISUZU FORWARD ALUMINUM VAN
ALSO AVAILABLE LOCALLY ACQUIRED VEHICLE
2TONS
ISUZU ELF CARGO W/ TADANO CRANE
MITSUBISHI ROSA BUS
TOYOTA PRADO



by SURESTEP
1013A EDSA, VETERAN'S VILLAGE, PROJ. 7, QUEZON CITY TEL.: 410-3067 / 65 • 372-3640
We deliver to or install at your home or office (Metro Manila Only)
• OTHER ACCESSORIES AVAILABLE. GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES! •

SHARK
www.sharkphil.com
NEW!
Customized for AVANZA
Shark Body Kit
ABSOLUTELY NO-HOLES BORED INSTALLATION!
Shark Front Chin
Shark Door Claddings with Flares
Shark Rear Chin with Rear Smart Strut
Shark Aeroblack Stepboard with skirts
Shark Bumper Overider
with Courtesy Lights
Shark Titanium Stepboard
Shark Rear Smart Strut
Shark Titanium Roof Caddy
Shark Rear Bumper with Chin



All thrills. 0 interest.
You can now get a Mazda3 at 0% interest for 3 years!
Visit the dealer nearest you for more details.
Mazda Alabang 772-3168 to 69 • Mazda Greenhills 722-1102 • Mazda Quezon Avenue 712-3355 • Mazda Makati 751-2235 to 36
Subject to Mazda Credit Approval.

MAZDA3
mazda
zoom-zoom

APRIL 14 TEXAS BOUT

Pacquiao begins training

FILIPINO SUPERSTAR MANNY PACquiao yesterday showed up at the Abap gym in General Santos City and started working out as part of his preparations for the April 14 showdown with little-known Mexican Jorge Solis at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas.

Reports coming out of General Santos City indicate that although Pacquiao has not yet signed the fight contract, he has already accepted the fight in principle, and even requested promoter Bob Arum of Top Rank to schedule it earlier to give him chance to campaign as a congressional candidate in South Cotabato against the incumbent, Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio.

"We have already started today," said Filipino trainer Buboy Fernandez in a brief message yesterday from General Santos City. Fernandez was assisted by Nonoy Neri, Pacquiao's long-time trusted lieutenant, at the gym.

Pacquiao took part in the Manny Pacquiao Cup 7-cock derby last Friday at the New Matina Gallera in Davao City, before plunging into training.

Pacquiao's entry, 'Pacman', emerged co-champion with three other entries of the P2 million derby.

Pacquiao will train in General Santos until the end of this month, before he flies out to Los Angeles to continue his training at the Wild Card Gym of renowned trainer Freddie Roach.

Roach, who was recently chosen as 2006 Trainer of the Year by the Boxing Writers' Association of America (BWAA), will initially handle Pacquiao's training, before the bespectacled tactician flies to Puerto Rico with Oscar De La Hoya as the latter prepares for his May 5 duel with Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Former heavyweight fighter Justin Fortune, Roach's assistant, will handle Pacquiao's training when Roach is away. Aside from Pacquiao, Fortune will also handle Gerry Peñalosa, who will take on WBO superbantam king Daniel Ponce De Leon on March 17 in Las Vegas.

PACQUIAO: Raring to rumble

7 RP jins training in Tehran up to Feb. 25

SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE SMART/PETRON Philippine taekwondo team are training rigorously in Tehran, Iran, after vying for the first time in the 2007 Asian Club Championships and the 19th FAJR Championships.

The Filipinos, who are staying in Iran until Feb. 25, are Athens Olympian and Doha Asian Games silver medalist Tshomlee Go, Sydney and Athens Olympian Donald David Geisler III, Doha Asiad bronze winner Manuel Rivero Jr., Jeffrey Figueroa, Ernesto Juan Mendoza III, Alexander Briones and Michael Alejandrino.

Supervising the team's training are delegation head Stephen Fernandez, team manager Chang Woo Lee and coach Roberto Cruz.

According to Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado, the participation in the Asian Club and FAJR events and training form part of the team's preparation for the upcoming Thailand Southeast Asian Games, the London Olympic qualifying tourney and the world championships in China.

The Filipinos saw action against the best from 29 other Asian countries including Korea, Chinese, Taipei, China and Iran.

The Iran stint, the first for the SMART/Petron squad this year, is expected to boost the Filipinos' confidence and further sharpen their skills.

The trip is supported by SMART Communications, PLDT, Petron and Philippine Sports Commission.

CHAMPION: Russian Yaroslava Shvedova celebrates her win against Italy's Mara Santangelo in the final match of Sony Ericsson WTA Tour in Bangalore, India, Feb. 18. Shvedova won, 6-4, 6-4.

AP

Montiel holds public workout today; Viloria arrives Feb. 21

CEBU—REIGNING WORLD BOXing Organization (WBO) superfly king Fernando Montiel of Mexico will give a preview of his vast arsenal in a public workout starting at 5 p.m. today at the Fight Club in Banilad here.

MONTIEL

Montiel will defend his world 115-lb crown against top Filipino prospect Z "The Dream" Gorres on Saturday in the co-feature of the huge 'Moment of Truth' card at the Cebu City Sports Complex.

Early last week, Gorres took part in a public workout at the Fight Club along with Rey Bautista.

Both Montiel and Gorres are on track to make the 115-lb regulatory weight limit. The Mexican champion was only 119 lb last Sunday, while Gorres was 118 lb.

The co-feature will showcase Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista going up against Colombia's Feider Viloria for the vacant WBO Intercontinental and WBO Asia Pacific Youth superbantam titles.

Viloria, who was supposed to arrive today, is slated to hit town on Wednesday after missing his flight in Baranquilla, Colombia, and encountering transit visa problems in Amsterdam.

Meanwhile, WBO Asia Pacific superfeatherweight champion Simson Butar-Butar of Indonesia had planed in last Sunday with his manager and trainer, then wasted no time sending a strong warning to challenger Jimrex "The Executioner" Jaca.

"If he thinks he even has a slim chance of dethroning me, then he better wake up," Butar-Butar bragged in his arrival message at the Mactan-Cebu International Airport. "Talking is one thing, fighting is another. He will be eating a good dose of leathers this Saturday."

The Butar-Butar-Jaca fight will start at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, followed by the Montiel-Gorres showdown, and the Bautista-Viloria tiff.

Tigers cop UAAP men's football crown

By Jasmine W. Payo

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS DISPLAYED composure in the penalty showdown to capture the UAAP men's football championship.

The Tigers claimed the title, 4-2, in a penalty shoot-out victory versus Far Eastern University after they finished with two goals apiece following extra time in the championship match last Sunday at the Ateneo field.

Ricardo Becite, named Most Valuable Player and Best Midfielder, Paul Madrona, Meliton Pelayo and Arman Esteban all converted for the Tigers.

The Lady Tamaraws, though, avenged their men's squad with Shella Ninobla scoring on the 86th minute to lift FEU past UST, 1-0, for the women's football crown.

Meanwhile, the UAAP Board forfeited Ateneo's baseball games this season after an emergency meeting yesterday.

Ateneo failed to submit the proper eligibility documents of freshman player Michael Justine Zialcita, a US citizen, after the elimination round.

"Academically he's qualified, but the ground for forfeiture is the failure to submit the ACR (Alien Certificate of Registration), which is a requirement for foreign students," said league secretary Brenn Perez of host University of the East.

National University will take the fourth-ranked Eagles' slot in the baseball semifinals, which was cancelled over the weekend.

In the men's football championship, the Tigers claimed a 2-1 lead in regulation with goals from Adrian Guillermo on the 55th minute and Pelayo on the 77th, before a late header from FEU's Jason Cordova locked the match on the 90th.

UST also romped off with several individual awards including Rookie of the Year for David Basa, Best Goalkeeper for Johnson Lee and Coach of the Year for Marjo Allado.

FEU's Ruchell Latap bagged the MVP and Best Midfielder plums in the women's division, while teammates Nadia Galang clinched the Best Goalkeeper title and Glaiza Artus the Best Scorer award.

In volleyball, FEU moved within a win of clinching its third straight title after outclassing the University of the Philippines, 25-16, 25-22, 21-25, 25-16, in men's action on Sunday at the Blue Eagle Gym.

Edjet Mabayad scored all 16 points on attacks, while Jerry Mabutol and Francisco dela Cruz contributed 12 apiece.

UST averted an FEU sweep as the Tigresses triumphed with a 25-14, 25-23, 21-25, 25-20 decision for a 1-0 lead in the best-of-three women's volleyball Finals. Venus Bernal scored 17 kills to finish with a game-high 18 points. Ma. Angeli Tabaquero contributed 15 attacks and 2 blocks.

Why RP should enter all-pro team to Seaba

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE PHILIPPINES SHOULD FIELD AN ALL-professional team in the Southeast Asian Basketball Association championships if we want to put up a good fight.

If we don't like to be the laughing stock of the whole world we must pick only Filipinos who truly love their country and not those who play the game only to fatten their pockets. I still remember one interview with a PBA superstar who said he won't play for the country because he might be injured and risk his livelihood. What a shame.

Chino Trinidad, the commissioner of the Philippine Basketball League, who heads the BAP-Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas selection committee tasked to form a national team for the Seaba championships, must know the task ahead is tough. Granting that the Filipinos hurdle the Seaba championships in May in Kuala Lumpur, they still have to play in the Olympic qualifier for the Fiba-Asia Championships to be held in Saitama, Japan, in July. The proximity of both tournaments needs the formation of a competitive team which could develop teamwork in a short time.

"The situation is far from ideal. We've got to have the greatest chance of qualifying and yet we've also got to take into account all the variables involved," said Chot Reyes, one of the frontrunners to head the coaching job.

In Olympic basketball, the national team should accept the fact that tall players definitely have the advantage over their short opponents, putting the Filipinos—who are not meant to be genetically tall—at a great disadvantage. On record, the tallest Filipino player is Asi Taulava, who stands 6-foot-9, smaller than the other centers of China, in particular.

For example, since 1990 have we beaten China in basketball? In the last Asian Games, the national team, composed of PBA players, lost even to Kazakhstan in the medal race for the bronze. It became more pitiful because in the past, the Philippines is always assured of making an impact and, in most cases, bringing home a medal from a regional tournament of this level.

We are a basketball crazy country. Basketball survives on the huge income it generates from its many sponsors unlike the other sports associations which are not so lucky. The fate of most of these impoverished sports associations will remain unchanged in view of the prevailing economic situation.

***

MISCELLANY. The Dance Sport Council of the Philippines will be holding its First Quarter and Competitions on March 24 at the multipurpose Philsports Arena, according to DSCP president Becky Garcia.

Despite its limited resources, some of the world's top professional dancers have performed here, including many-time Latin champions Jukka Haapalain and Sirpa Suutra of Finland, Russian standard dancers Sacha and Olgs Zenkevitchk and European Latin champions Jason Roditis and Tonia Kosovich of Greece.

"Through the years we were able to survive," said Garcia, adding that the Philippines is now a force to reckon with in the region. Incidentally, I am submitting to the organizers of the first ever Philippine Sports Hall of Fame some names for the committee's perusal. Among them are former Secretary of Justice Jose P. Bengzon, who represented the Philippines in the Tokyo Games in 1917 and in Manila in 1919; Mariano Filomeno, a Letran College Hall of Famer; Jovito Gonzales and Augusto Bautista, who hold the distinction of carrying the national colors in record times at the FE Games; Mariano Sangle, high-scoring Lou Salvador, all-around Vicente Avena, Tirso Garcia and John Schlobohm, who later coached the 1949 NCAA champion team Mapua Tech Cardinals.

SPORTSWATCH

4th Golden Wheel Awards Feb. 28

THE BIGGEST NAMES IN PHILIPPINE MOTORSPORTS GATHER IN ONE SPEcial night of celebration on Feb. 28 at the Pagcor-Casino Filipino Airport. Dubbed the 4th annual Golden Wheel Awards, the event chaired by motorsports godfather Johnny Tan fetes the top achievers in various disciplines of motorsports like motocross, Shell Advance road racing, rallye, rallycross, drag racing, slalom, off-road racing, touring car, Shell karting and Asian Formula 3. Highlighting the event is the announcement of the Golden Wheel Driver of the Year who will be picked from among the motorsports champions. The champions who will be feted are Glenn Aguilar (Motocross), Jolet Jao (Road Racing), Jaime Barcial (Underbone), Matteo Guidicelli (Karting), Jody Coseteng (Touring Car), Dave Jota (Drag Racing), Alex Perez (Drifting), Neil Andaya (4x4 OffRoad), Noel Rivera (Slalom), Tyson Sy (Asian Formula 3) and Marlon Stockinger (Asian Karting).

PSBA holds non-master active chess

THE PHILIPPINE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION' STUDENT Chess Club (PSBA-SCC) announces the holding of its 1st 2000 below Non-master Active Chess tourney at 11 a.m. on Sunday at the Riverbanks Center Food Court in Marikina City. The event is open to beginners, unrated and rated players whose active ratings are not over 2000. It will employ the seven-round Swiss and time control of 25 minutes per player to determine the top 10 finishers who will receive cash prizes aside from medals and trophy for the champion. Registration fee is P250 with free T-shirt and certificate of participation. Call 0921-222-5489/ 0927-396-5044 and 0922-972-1838.

Metro cockers join SJC cockfest

COCKERS AND BREEDERS OF METRO MANILA WILL CONVERGE AT THE San Juan Coliseum to take part in the P10.5-M National Rambulan 8-cock derby slated on March 1, 3 and 6 (first batch) and March 19, 21 and 24 (second batch). As of yesterday, more than 120 entries with cockhouse reservations were listed for the first batch. According to Rambulan organizers Rodolfo Pineda and Butch Nunez, cockers from Rizal, Batangas, Bulacan, Cavite, Pampanga, Laguna and Nueva Ecija can also join. "Please take note that the entry fee of P11,000 is the same in an ordinary 4-cock derby," said Nunez. Meanwhile, the fourth leg of Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-cock derby series returns tomorrow at SJC. Entries are due for submission today, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Call 725-5369 and 725 -6563 or 0917-8041691 (Maricar).

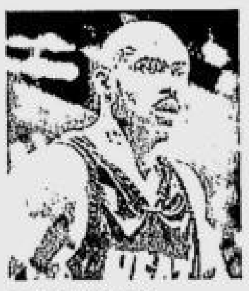
BAP-SBP officer Tumapat dies

ROLANDO D. TUMAPAT, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF Criminology (PCCr) and nomination officer of the Basketball Association of the Philippines-Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas (BAP-SBP), died Friday at age 65. Tumapat suffered a heart attack at home and died at the Chinese General Hospital where he was rushed by his son Gene Roland. He is survived by his wife Maria Elena and children Paola Florence, Gene Roland, Jeannette Ann, Ronald Alllan and Roldan Lee. His body lies in estate at the Prudential Memorial Homes on Maceda Street between Ply Margal and Dapitan in Sampaloc, Manila. Interment will be on Wednesday.

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Yao Man (1), Parrot Moe (7), Sheza Winner (4), Remus (5)
Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Getting Personal (10), Macedonian (11), Color My World (6), Miggy Man (8), Getting Better (13)
Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Spinning Bullet (8), Chiclet (6), D As In Dixie (7), Hok Kee Hok (9), Hidalgo (2)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Sword O'War (4), Regal Chief (10), T-Mac (11), Found For Pound (5), Golden Rice (9)
Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Full of Fury (6), Vitality (8), Idol (2), Allysa's Choice (5), Flynow (1)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Daddy's Girl (3), Magic Dancer (13), Paano Ba (12), Lovely Tara (10), Letshaveaparty (5)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—silver Eagle (9), Happy Again (2), Epic Energy (8), Something Silver (6), High Riser (7)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Andorra (9), Extreme Reaction/King's Choice (11), Selfmade (3), Money Man (1), Nitty Gritty (4), Bombshell Beauty (6)

Hardaway apologizes for anti-gay statements



HARDAWAY

MIAMI—FORMER NBA All-Star Tim Hardaway apologized again on Sunday for his anti-gay remarks, telling a Miami television station that he "didn't mean" to say what he said in a South Florida radio interview last week.

Hardaway, in an interview at his home with WFOR station, acknowledged he made a major mistake by saying "I hate gay people" when asked how he would react to having a gay teammate.

"I don't hate gay people," Hardaway said. "I'm a goodhearted person. I interact with people all the time. ... I respect people. For me to say 'hate' was a bad word, and I didn't mean to use it."

Hardaway made the anti-gay comments on Wednesday, a week after Englishman John Amaechi became the first former NBA player to reveal his homosexuality. Hardaway said he didn't believe gay players should share a locker room with heterosexual players, then added, "I don't like gay people, and I don't like to be around gay people."

On Sunday, he acknowledged "that was very bad."

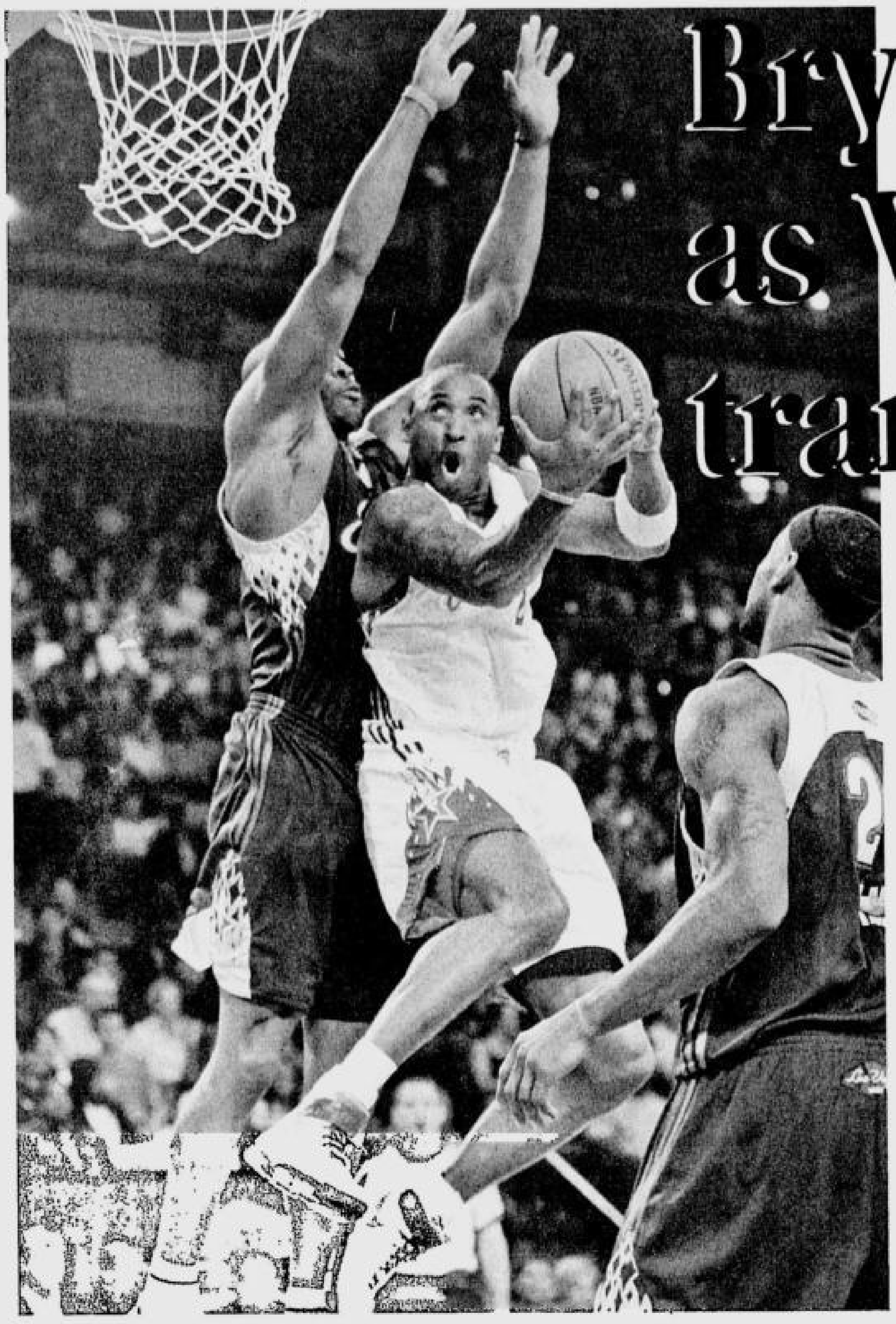
His remarks quickly drew criticism from both the NBA and several gay and lesbian groups, and Hardaway said the firestorm surprised him.

"It was like, you know, I had killed somebody. I never knew that this was going to escalate that high," Hardaway said.

Hardaway was banished from some NBA-sanctioned appearances he was scheduled to make in Las Vegas as part of the All-Star weekend. He also lost at least one of his endorsement deals, and he ordered his name dropped from advertising at a car wash he owns in Miami, saying he made that decision to ensure the safety of his employees.

Hardaway played parts of 13 NBA seasons with Golden State, Miami, Dallas, Denver and Indiana, and played in five All-Star games. *AP*

Bryant shines as West stars trample East



KOBE Bryant (center) goes to the hoop between Dwight Howard (left) and Lebron James during the 2007 NBA All-Star basketball game. REUTERS

LAS VEGAS—WHETHER IT'S THE REGULAR season, the playoffs or simply a game of playground pickup, it doesn't take Kobe Bryant long to get the competitive juices flowing.

The 28-year-old Los Angeles Laker had 31 points, six steals, six assists and collected the MVP award Sunday, leading the Western Conference to a 153-132 win over the East in the 2007 NBA All-Star Game.

Bryant said the West had something to prove this year after dropping the last two midseason showdowns.

"We felt like we blew big leads the last couple of times and we wanted to make sure that didn't happen again," Bryant said. "Nobody wants to lose three in a row no matter where it is."

Bryant was a unanimous choice for the trophy, winning all 10 votes in the balloting.

This marks the second time Bryant has earned MVP All-Star honours. He also scored 31 points in being named MVP of the 2002 game in Philadelphia where he was booed in front of his hometown crowd.

Las Vegas was a completely different story as the crowd at the Thomas and Mack Center arena chanted Bryant's name on Sunday.

"As players we always want to feel like we are appreciated for what we do," Bryant said. "To have this type of reaction is very humbling."

Phoenix's Amare Stoudemire gave Bryant a run for his money in all-star performances Sunday by scoring 20 points. Stoudemire said Bryant deserved the trophy.

"Kobe came out and played pretty aggressive," Stoudemire said. "As a team we were able to rally around him and get a win." Bryant also had six steals Sunday for a career total of 26 to move into third place on the all-time All-Star steals list behind Michael Jordan (37) and Isiah Thomas (31). *AFP*

Harvick tops Daytona 500

DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA—KEVIN HARVICK nosed out Mark Martin in a frantic wreck-filled finish to win the Daytona 500 on Sunday.

Martin, making his 23rd attempt at a 500 win, seemed to have victory in hand until a hard-charging Harvick barreled along his outside to win by .020 seconds — the mere length of a car hood. NASCAR had to review the tape just to be sure who was going to Victory Lane.

Harvick never doubted the outcome.

"I got so excited at the end of the race, and I knew we had won," he said. "I just didn't realize how excited I was, and I punched the dang mirror out of the car. Just overexcited, I guess. Knocked the mirror right out."

Harvick beat the sentimental favorite to win NASCAR's premier race, six years to the day after Dale Earnhardt was killed on the final lap. Just days after his death, it was Harvick who was hired to replace him, and he rewarded Richard Childress with the car owner's second Daytona 500 victory—Earnhardt won the other in 1998.

As Harvick pushed into the lead, Kyle Busch wiggled behind them and bumped into Matt Kenseth to start a melee. Harvick and Martin raced side by side, waiting for NASCAR to call for a caution. When it finally came, Harvick was barely ahead. *AP*

Spawned by Yao Ming, China's next basketball generation is taking shape

BEIJING—TO UNDERSTAND CHINA's basketball ambitions, look no further than the four Chinese characters that adorn 16 glass backboards in a sprawling sports complex near Tiananmen Square.

"Basketball's new generation surpassing the old," they read.

In the shadow of those boards, 18-year-old Li Boyang is the next generation—the one Yao Ming spawned. He speaks English, lugs a scuffed orange basketball and happily hands over 15 yuan (about $2, euro1.50) to play an hour of half-court at the Dongdan Sports Center.

"When Yao Ming made the NBA, it started to get us interested in basketball," said Li, dressed in shiny white sneakers and a baggy, oversized, flannel-like shirt. "For many of us, it was Yao."

American missionaries brought basketball to China in the 1890s, but the Houston Rockets' 2.29-meter (7-foot-6) center has converted the game into street cool. He's also generated a few urban myths among teenage boys, like this one: Playing basketball can make you taller.

"When I was 7, I wasn't really tall," Li said, drawing a hand across his waist to show how short he was. "Playing basketball is one reason I think I've grown. I really believe this."

Li stands about 1.83 meters (6 feet)—much shorter than Yao, but taller than the average Chinese.

Called "lanqiu" (pronounced lahn-chew) in Chinese, basketball in China represents America's most successful sporting export. The NFL has lost money trying to transplant its game abroad—mostly in Europe as NFL Europa. And Major League Baseball has dented few nontraditional markets looking for new revenue.

No. I market

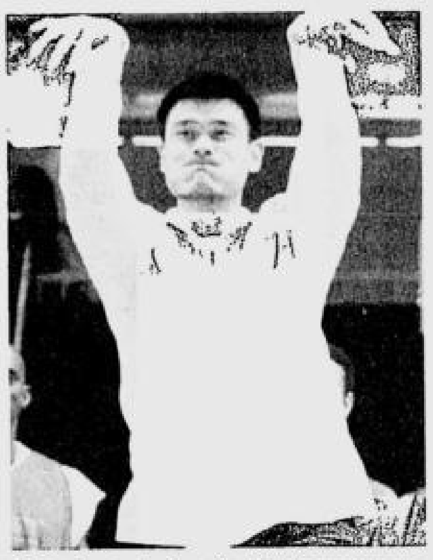
Both are trying to crack China. The NFL will play the exhibition China Bowl in Beijing in August—the New England Patriots vs Seattle Seahawks—and MLB eventually may stage a regular-season game in a stadium being built for the 2008 Olympics.

But the NBA already has a 50-member staff—its largest abroad—and a game with deep roots.

"It's the No. 1 market for us outside the United States," said Heidi Ueberroth, who directs the NBA's international business. "We've seen double-digit growth over the past several years—and as far out as we can project. I can assure you it is very profitable."

She said the NBA generates about 10 percent of its $3 billion (euro2.3 billion) revenue outside the United States, and China is the biggest overseas contributor.

The NBA boasts 20,000 stores in China that carry its merchandise. China's biggest broadcaster, state-run CCTV, airs four NBA games weekly, and 50 other stations across the country telecast games.



YAO shoots during the All-Star western conference practice in Las Vegas. REUTERS

The NBA has landed local sponsors, including Lenovo, the Chinese computer maker that bought IBM's personal computer division, and Chinese sporting good company Li-Ning, founded by an earlier sports hero, Olympic and world champion gymnast Li Ning.

Media research company AGB Nielsen says soccer is the country's most watched sport, though basketball is more widely played. Nielsen shows soccer with an average of two or three times more viewers than basketball in the three major markets: Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou.

Steady rise in numbers

But the NBA's numbers have risen steadily since 2001, despite games being aired in the morning. The NBA claims 347 million TV viewers in China this season. The Internet also has live Webcasts of NBA games.

The ratings could get another spike from China's latest star, 2.13-meter (7-foot) forward Yi Jianlian, who's expected to go in the first round of this year's NBA draft. He'll be the fourth Chinese to make the NBA, following Wang Zhizhi, Mengek Bateer and Yao.

And there'll be more from a country where 300 million play the game.

Yi, who plays for the Guangdong Tigers in the Chinese Basketball Association, is quick and athletic with a deadly perimeter shot. Many compare the 19-year-old to David Robinson or Pau Gasol.

There's perhaps another Yao on the horizon, O'Neil said, describing a 14-year-old at his academy who's already 2.16m (7-foot-1).

"Yao is a national symbol. He's a brand," O'Neil said. "His influence is enormous. Since he's been in the league, people in China know more about the NBA than Americans." *AP*

SINGLES, DOUBLES

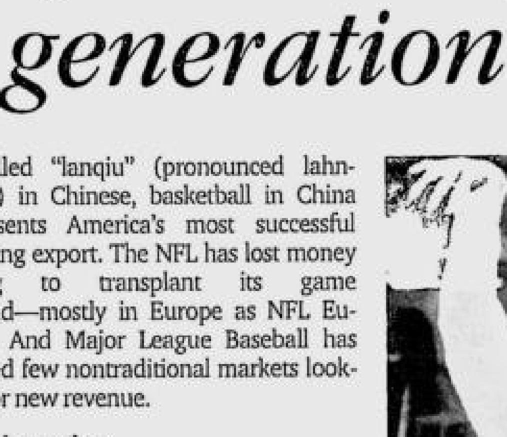
Murrays make ATP history

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA—SCOTLAND'S Andy and Jamie Murray had double cause for celebration on Sunday when they became the first brothers to win singles and doubles at the same ATP Tour event since 1989.

The 19-year-old Andy beat Ivo Karlovic of Croatia 6-7, 6-4, 7-6 to win the singles title for the second successive year.

And Jamie, who turned 21 earlier in the week, joined forces with American Eric Butorac to beat Rainer Scheuettler of Germany and South African Chris Haggard 7-5, 7-6 to win the doubles.

The last brothers to achieve the feat were Emilio and Javier Sanchez, in Kitzbuhel, Austria. *Reuters*



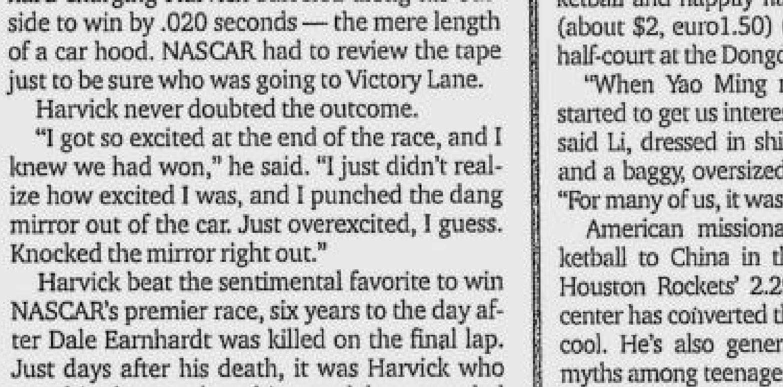
ANDY Murray exults against Ivo Karlovic. AFP

Woods faces Henry

TUCSON, ARIZONA—TIGER Woods got a new first-round opponent in the Accenture Match Play Championship on Sunday when J.J. Henry replaced South Africa's Charl Schwartzel in the 64-man field.

Schwartzel, 60th in the world ranking last Monday when the field was set for the World Golf Championship event at The Gallery, decided to skip the tournament in a bid to top the Southern Africa tour's money list.

Henry, 65th in the ranking, will face the top-ranked Woods in the first round on Wednesday. Brett Quigley, ranked 64th, will open against second-ranked Jim Furyk instead of Woods. *AP*



MICHAEL Phelps heads for the last turn en route to breaking his own world record in the 200-meter butterfly. AP

RECORD HOLDER

Phelps splashes way to 2 more victories

COLUMBIA, MISSOURI—UNITed States swim star Michael Phelps followed a world-record 200m butterfly performance with two more event victories here Sunday at the Missouri Grand Prix swim meet.

Phelps, who won six gold medals at the Athens Olympics, captured the 400 individual medley in 4 mins, 11.30 secs and won the 200 freestyle in 1:46.47.

Tunisia's Ous Mellouli finished second by .34 of a second in the medley while Peter Vanderkaay, Phelps' US teammate and University of Michigan training partner, was a distant second in the 200 freestyle, 2.46 seconds off the pace.

Phelps served notice that he is preparing for another impressive effort next month at the World Championships in Melbourne, Australia, by trimming his world 200 fly record to 1:53.71 on Saturday.

He set the old mark of 1:53.80 last August at the Pan Pacific Championships in Victoria, Canada.

US veteran Natalie Coughlin won Sunday's women's 50 free and 200 free finals at the meet, which concludes Monday. *AFP*

SPORTS

PBA to Chot: Name RP 5

Nat'l team known by Saturday; apprentice draft set

By Francis Ochoa

PHILIPPINE BASKETBALL Association commissioner will ask league-backed national coach Chot Reyes to name the country's roster for the Southeast Asian Basketball Association championships within the week to allow both the national team and the PBA ballclubs that will be affected by the selection to prepare early.

"I am optimistic that he can name the team by Friday this week," said Eala, who was set to meet Reyes late yesterday afternoon. "We will hold a press conference on Saturday to announce the team."

The naming of the team hopes to achieve a two-fold task: It will allow the national squad to prepare early for the Seaba tilt slated May and it will also give PBA teams whose players will be drafted into the national squad a chance to reassess their lineup and take advantage of the "apprenticeship draft" the league is holding on Feb. 27.

The Seaba is the qualifier for the Fiba-Asia tilt scheduled later in the year, the tournament that will serve as the Asian qualifier for the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

The apprenticeship draft on the other hand, will allow teams to select amateur standouts to fill the spots that will be left vacant by those selected for national duty.

"The earlier direction of the board was to have the national team named by March 1," Eala said. "But we deemed it better if the team was named earlier to give the national squad a chance to prepare and then allow the teams to study how they will use the apprenticeship draft."

SEIGLE

TAULAVA

RITUALO

HONTIVEROS

Candidates

Among the players touted to make the national squad are Talk 'N Text stars Asi Taulava and Renren Ritualo, San Miguel gunners Danny Seigle and Dondon Hontiveros and Ginebra standouts Mark Caguioa and Erik Menk.

The league opened the apprenticeship draft to all players, this time including those who are not part of any amateur commercial league, as was earlier prescribed.

"I'm pretty sure there's a lot of gifted ball players out there who are interested to avail this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. If they wish to experience how it is to play in the pros, this is their chance," Eala said in a statement sent to media offices yesterday.

Eala said players who are not involved in any amateur commercial league like the Philippine Basketball League, the National Basketball Conference and the Mindanao-Visayas Basketball League can submit their application not later than Feb. 22 at the PBA office located at 186 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis Quezon City.

Interested parties must attach in their application forms a clearance from their mother ball club and/or athletic sports association allowing them to play under the apprentice program of the PBA.

Apprentice program

Expected to take advantage of the apprentice program are standouts from the PBL, which just concluded its season, such as JC Intal, Ken Bono and Larry Rodriguez.

For those who are active players of the PBL, NBC and MVBA, Eala said the PBA will be sending a letter to the commissioners of these three leagues requesting them to identify who among their players are qualified for the "Apprentice Program".

"We hope we could complete the roster within the week so we could go ahead with the drafting," Eala said.

The PBA board of governors unanimously agreed that all members of the RP Team will be barred from playing next conference.

Compensation

Eala said those who will make it as replacement players will be well compensated, getting a maximum P40,000 monthly educational assistance, medical insurance coverage and perks and bonuses.

The order of drafting will be determined by the contribution of teams to the RP squad, making it imperative that Reyes names the team within the week.

In the event two or more teams contribute the same number of players, their rankings in the 2006-07 Philippine Cup determines their drafting order.

"The Apprenticeship Program will also provide new look and attraction to the Fiesta Cup," said Eala of the import-laden tournament.

POC, PSC create Olympic 'groups'

By June Navarro

THE FIRM HANDSHAKE BETWEEN PHILIPpine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez and Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco said it all.

The POC and the PSC sealed their long-term partnership yesterday in a joint executive board meeting attended by high-ranking officers of both organizations to map out the country's program for the Olympics.

With the 2008 Beijing Olympics in mind, the collaboration between the two organizations will be the backbone of the entire blueprint, which hopefully could produce the first gold medal for the country in the Games.

COJUANGCO

And for starters, the POC and the PSC have laid down the groundwork by forming three working committees designed to accomplish the Olympic target.

A committee was created to oversee the fund-raising activities for the Olympics while another committee will look after the welfare of the athletes and coaches.

An ethics committee was also formed to maintain good house-keeping.

The fund-raising committee will also set the guidelines on how money should be spent from the training of athletes up to the games proper.

"The roles are clear," said POC deputy secretary-general Mark Joseph, the designated spokesperson of the Olympic body.

"According to the Olympic charter, the selection of athletes is not only based on performance but on how they carry themselves in public as well," the swimming chief added.

Ramirez and commissioners Ritchie Garcia, Joey Mundo and Ambrosio De Luna will represent the PSC committees while the POC has yet to name its representatives.

"We want to accelerate the level of collaboration between the POC and the PSC after its success the past two years," said Joseph.

With the partnership of the POC and the PSC, the country won its first Southeast Asian Games title in 2005 and nailed its best finish last year in the Doha Asian Games after four decades.

SEAG task force formed sans chief of mission

By Marc Anthony Reyes

A TASK FORCE TO OVERSEE THE preparation for the Thailand Southeast Asian Games has been formed, but no chief of mission has yet been named.

The joint boards of the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee yesterday agreed to form the body that will supervise the country's training, funding and participation in the Thailand SEAG in December.

However, the sports bodies have yet to talk about who will be the head of delegation.

PSC chair Butch Ramirez earlier stressed that in as far as the naming of the chief of mission, "the earlier the better."

Ramirez said the head of delegation is needed to solidify the measures that the Task Force will be taking.

"We need somebody who can take decisive action. Somebody to hire and fire people," he said in a separate interview.

But POC president Peping Cojuangco, is not keen on naming anybody just yet. His stand is that the Task Force can get things going even without the chief of mission, according to POC secretary general Steve Hontiveros

"There is no conflict between the POC and the PSC as far as the chief of mission is concerned," insisted POC deputy secretary-general Mark Joseph.

PSC commissioner Richie Garcia added that naming the chief of mission will be one of the issues that will be tackled by the Task Force when it meets today.

Whatever is agreed upon by the Task Force will then be recommended to the POC.

Joseph, squash chief Romy Ribaño and PSC commissioner Joey Mundo will 'be the members of the Task Force.

Both Joseph and Garcia maintained that no names have cropped up for possible chief of mission although Garcia and wushu chief Julian Camacho will sit as co-chairs of the Task Force.

Garcia said they will first determine the size of the delegation before charting what course it would take.

Eclectic mix does wonders for Harbour Centre

By Jasmine W. Payo

HARBOUR CENTRE COACH JORGE Gallent banked on a cast of young and old from the court to the sidelines.

And it turned out to be the right mix once again as the Portmasters captured their second straight Philippine Basketball League (PBL) championship on Saturday night.

With the departure of team stars LA Tenorio and Joseph Yeo from last year's title run, Gallent revamped his team by plucking collegiate standouts and amateur journeymen.

"We had six to seven new players and it was back to basics for us," said Gallent. "But we also got veterans from champion teams and they were a great help."

PBL SILVER CUP
BACK 2 BACK
CHAMPION
GALLENT: Back to basics AUGUST DELA CRUZ

New players

Harbour Centre tapped Ateneo hero JC Intal and National University's Jonathan Fernandez and Edwin Asoro this conference, while dispersed seasoned players Al Vergara, Marvin Ortiguerra, Ron Capati and Allan Gamboa also joined the eclectic crew.

Over at the sidelines, the 37-year-old Gallent drew support from veteran tactician Junel Baculi, who started serving as consultant for the squad late last year.

"When we built the team, we saw the composition—there were many rookies and there were many veterans—but it was a good combination," said team owner Mikee Romero.

Heroes

In Game 3 of the Finals, Fernandez drilled in 15 of his 23 points from beyond the arc to lead the Portmasters to a series-sweep versus Hapee-PCU, 86-73.

Fernandez bagged the Pivotal Player honors, while clutch-shooting guard Chico Lanete captured the Finals Most Valuable Player award.

"He created plays, but most of the time he made the big shots for us," said Gallent of Lanete, the Portmasters' top offensive option since the semifinal round versus Toyota Otis.

Mainstays

Gallent also credited the performances of his other mainstays during the Finals series, particularly the defensive plays of second-stringer Ryan Araña and Jerwin Gaco.

"I did not think that we'd achieve our goal this fast," said Romero after his franchise captured its second title in only its fourth conference.

Harbour Centre, which also plans to enter the PBA someday, also won the Unity Cup last year, setting the team up for this golden double.

CHAMPION
CHAMPION
HARBOUR Centre players, staff and supporters whoop it up after a second straight championship, something which team owner Mikee Romero never thought would happen this early. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

symantec. NORTON CONFIDENTIAL

SAFEGUARDS AGAINST ONLINE IDENTITY THEFT

- Blocks fake Web sites and crimeware
- Keeps passwords protected
- Authenticates popular banking and shopping Web sites

INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC.
+632 727 3801 • 744 3000 www.ics.com.ph

Website: www.inquirer.net/business

BUSINESS

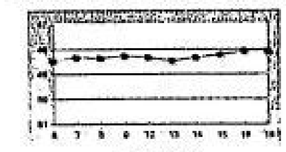
Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** • *Assistant Editor* **Corrie S. Narisma**

Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) **E-mail:** business@inquirer.com.ph

Swabe ang dating,
Lakas ng hatak!
Max. Diesel Max.
PETRON
PETRON DIESEL MAX

91-day T-bill rate slumps to 2.885%

INDICATORS



FEBRUARY

₱48.10 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Feb. 19, 2007

Cash-rich banks swamp auctions with ₱22B in bids

By Michelle V. Remo

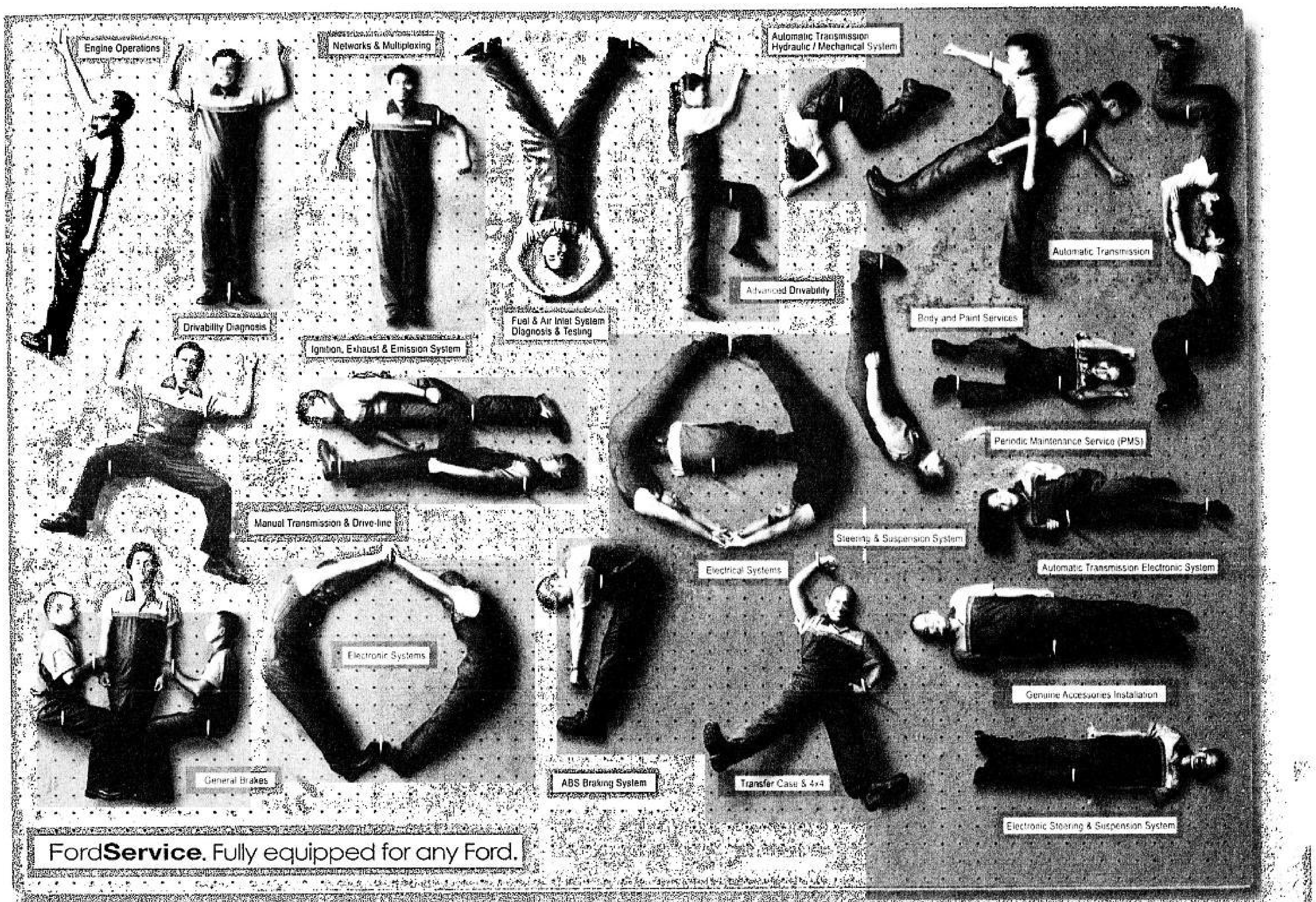
TREASURY BILL RATES SLID FURTHER YESTERDAY TO new all-time lows, with the benchmark 91-day yield breaching the 3-percent mark to settle at 2.885 percent.

"The low interest rate environment is a function of things like liquidity, inflation and the government's fiscal condition—drivers that are all on a positive now," National Treasurer Omar Cruz said in a briefing after yesterday's auction.

The 12.3-basis-point drop in the 91-day rate was forced by the huge volume of bids that reached P4.07 billion compared with the government's offering of only P500 million.

The 182-day bills fetched 3.395 percent, down 7.8 basis points from the rate two weeks ago. Appetite for the six-month bills was strongest as tenders reached P9.58 billion compared with the government's offering of only P1.5 billion.

91-DAY/ B2


Engine Operations
Networks & Multiplexing
Automatic Transmission Hydraulic / Mechanical System
Advanced Drivability
Automatic Transmission
Body and Paint Services
Drivability Diagnosis
Fuel & Air Inlet System Diagnosis & Testing
Ignition, Exhaust & Emission System
Periodic Maintenance Service (PMS)
Manual Transmission & Drive-line
Steering & Suspension System
Electrical Systems
Automatic Transmission Electronic System
Electronic Systems
Genuine Accessories Installation
General Brakes
ABS Braking System
Transfer Case & 4x4
Electronic Steering & Suspension System
FordService. Fully equipped for any Ford.

Ford-trained Technicians. Specialized Tools and Equipment. Advanced Service Facilities. Experience our service expertise at your preferred Ford Dealership today.

ford.com.ph

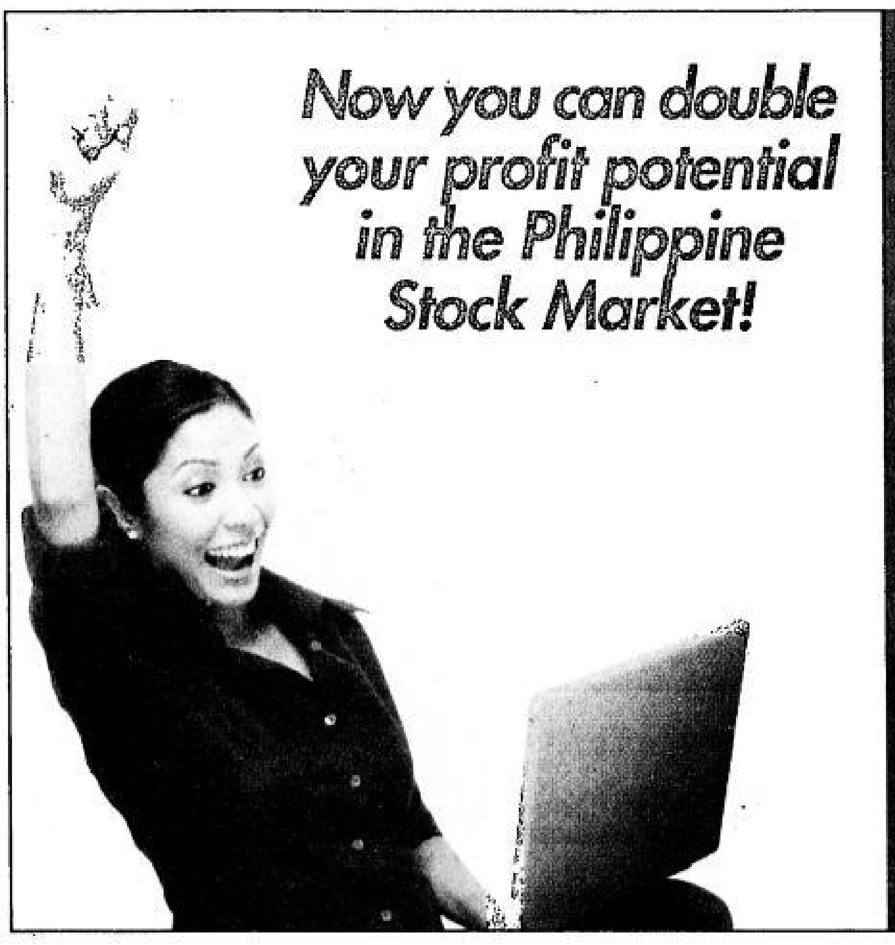
Ford

Make Every Day Exciting

www.ford.com.ph

•Ford Alabang, Trunk Lines 842-3681 / 842-4628 Fax No. 807-4430 • Ford Balintawak, Trunk Line 927-9648, Fax No. 927-5981 • Ford Batangas, Tel No. (043) 723-7804, Fax No. (043) 723-5759 • Ford Commonwealth, Tel Nos. 952-918, 952-9441, 952-9446 Fax No. 952-9440 • Ford EDSA Greenhills, Tel No. 744-2222, Fax No. 723-6311 • Ford EDSA Service Center Tel No. 723-7029
•Ford Libis, Trunk Line 637-2044, Fax No: 637-6008 • Ford Global City, Trunkline 860-8888, Fax No 818-5000 • Ford Manila, Tel No. 562 5555 Fax No. 562-8985 • Ford Quezon Avenue, Tel Nos 731-2617 / 742-3435 / 742-3436 Fax 742-3451 • Ford Shaw Blvd., Trunk Line 717-0888, Telefax 717-1390
•Ford Pampanga, Trunk Line (045) 961-2888. Fax Nos. (045) 963 5205 / 961-2277 • Ford Cabanatuan, Tel. No. (044) 464-0111, Fax No. (044) 600-4200 • Ford Dagupan, Tel No. (075) 522-2222, Telefax (075) 515 5520 • Ford San Pablo, Tel No. (049) 562-9186, Telefax (049) 562 8324 • Ford Cavite, Tel No. (046) 472-2040, Fax (046) 472-2048
•Ford Cebu, Trunk Line (032) 231-9180, Fax No. (032) 231-9023 • Ford Bacolod, Tel No. (034) 432 2151, Telefax (034) 434-2877 • Ford Iloilo, Tel No. (033) 321 3352, Telefax No. (033) 321-3351 • Ford Cagayan de Oro, Tel No. (088) 855 8811, Telefax (088) 855-8877 • Ford Davao, Tel No. (082) 234-1111; Fax No. (082) 234-2222

Now you can double your profit potential in the Philippine Stock Market!



Introducing another pioneering innovation from the largest capitalized online broker in the country!

COL X2 investing power multiplied

CitisecOnline's Margin Financing Account

Increase your buying power with a flexible and convenient credit line at very competitive interest rates.

Call ***(02) 6-333-777*** *or log on to* ***www.citiseconline.com*** *today.*

CITISECONLINE
STOCKBROKERS

The 1st and only online broker listed in the PSE.

Aboitiz, Taiwan firm to put up 150-MW power plant in Subic

Coal-fired facility to meet rising demand in freeport

By Abigail L. Ho

ABOITIZ POWER CORP. HAS FORGED A memorandum of agreement with Taiwan Cogeneration International Corp. (TCIC) for the establishment of a 150-megawatt (MW) coal-fired power plant in Subic, Zambales.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, parent firm Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. said that under the agreement, the two companies would collaborate in building and operating the generation facility.

The coal-fired power plant would be put up within the Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

AEV said its subsidiary and the Taiwanese firm had decided to form a joint venture that would implement the project. It, however, did not provide details of the joint venture.

The proposed coal-fired power plant will supply electricity to locators in Freeport. The Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority is expecting rise in demand for power particularly from new locators.

AEV said the plant would also offer its power to utilities adjacent to the freeport.

According to AEV, the planned coal-fired power facility should initially be rated at 150 MW, but that a second unit could be added in the future, depending on the results of a feasibility study that would be conducted by the joint venture.

This is not the first time that the Aboitiz family is venturing into the power business within the Subic Freeport area.

Aboitiz distribution utility Subic EnerZone Corp. earlier committed to invest P350 million over five years to improve the Subic power distribution system.

The company had also purchased National Transmission Corp.'s sub-transmission lines and 100-MW substation to further improve power reliability within the economic zone.

TVI announces new finds in RP

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TORONTO STOCK EXCHANGE-LISTED TVI Pacific Inc. said in a statement that its Philippine affiliate had confirmed two new prospects in Zamboanga del Norte following an earlier report that it had identified a sulphides prospect near its existing mine.

The additional finds make firmer TVI Resource Development (Phils.) Inc.'s plan of extending the mine life of its existing sulphide operation in the Canatuan area from the initial timeframe of eight years.

Dubbed Matigdao and Palalian, the new prospects yielded samples with significant amounts of gold, silver and copper.

Samples taken from test pits were found to contain gold at a range of 2.62 grams to 14.19 grams per ton of dirt; and silver at a range of 101.5 grams to 567.2 grams a ton. Some samples also yielded 7.99 percent copper.

A kilometer apart, the new sites are 15 kilometers from the existing mine in Siocon town. The company described the contents of the samples as "including semi-massive sulphides and gossan occurrences" which it said was of similar material as the ores found in Canatuan.

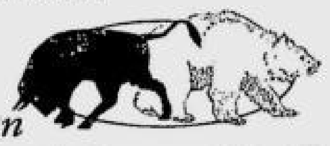
Gossan refers to the exposed, oxidized portion of a mineral vein.

In a statement, TVI president and chief executive Cliff James said the firm would assess whether the ores found indicated that its area of operation near Canatuan was hosting a broader district containing such ores.

"Further work on Matigdao and Palalian—in conjunction with the previously announced exploration activities at the nearby Tabingan prospect—is required to assess their potential and to further define (presence of the ores)," James said.

Year of the Pig brings more pork

MR. BEARBULL



Ron Nathan

A HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR TO ALL MY readers, from me, Kung Hei, and from my wife, Fat Choi. I see that a film star is running for the Senate and a boxer for mayor. Why not Efren Reyes? He is immensely popular and has the balls for it.

I received the following mining report but I cannot read the name of the company:

Element- woman

Discoverer-Adam

Atomic weight- 40 to 200 kg., 50 kg preferred

Occurrence-vast quantities in urban areas.

Physical properties- top surface usually covered with painted film.

- Freezes without known reason

-Melts if given special treatment

-Bitter if incorrectly used

-Found in various states ranging from virgin metal to common ores.

Chemical properties- has affinity for gold, silver and jewelry

- May explode without notice

- Insoluble in liquid but greatly activated by alcohol.

- Most powerful money-reducing agent known to man.

Common uses- highly ornamental, especially in sports cars

-Can be a great aid to relaxation

-Can be a very effective cleaning agent.

Tests- pure specimen turns red when discovered in natural state

-Turns green when placed beside better specimen

Hazards- highly dangerous except in experienced hands

-Illegal to possess more than one, although several can be maintained at different locations as long as specimens do not come into contact with each other.

An elderly resident in a nursing home said to a female resident in a wheelchair, "I bet you can't tell me how old I am."

"I can if you take off all your clothes." So he strips naked. "You're 95," she said. "That's amazing, he exclaimed. "How could you tell?"

"You told me at breakfast."

* * *

The Dow made a record high on the news that job creation and housing starts are slowing, thereby suggesting that interest rates will not rise any further and will start declining in the second half of the year. Chrysler is laying off 13,000 people plus early retirement incentives. There are rumors that General Motors is interested.

GEO continues to surge at an extraordinary pace and even I am surprised. The company is moving forward in negotiations with several companies and is continuing its drilling, primarily for nickel. As Saudi Arabia is to oil: The Philippines is to nickel. I hope I got the latter right. ABN-Amro and Daiwa have joined Regis in buying the stock so foreign brokers are getting interested. I am thinking of becoming a GEOmancer.

APX has sent out notices to stockholders that the AGM scheduled for Feb. 28 at the Valle Verde Country Club will go ahead as planned.

The dividend season is now upon us so I will write about company results for the next three weeks.

AC came out with excellent results, up 49 percent and well above analysts' forecasts. This was in spite of a disappointing 4th quarter from Globe, whose profits fell by 36 percent. AC's net profit rose from P8.2 billion to P12.2 billion. It said it would spend as much as $100 million to buy more companies that provide outsource business services. It has already spent $69 million since June and will continue to invest so that it can compete with companies such as Convergys.

AC has bought three firms and 11 percent of e-Telecare Global Solutions for $16 million. AC president Zobel said, "This is going to be a good year and we will probably see most of our companies at their most aggressive."

DMC had a huge cross sale by Regis wrote P560 million, of which P402 million passed into foreign hands.

Alliance Global went ex a 1- for -1 rights issue at P1.50. In a few days, the ex-rights price collapsed from P5.70 to P3.55. After the market closed on Friday, AGI bid for 25 percent of Megaworld and Emperador Distillers and the shares will be suspended pending further clarification.

The government sold its 6.4-percent stake in PLDT thereby raising funds that it can use either to reduce the budget deficit or to spend on infrastructure that is badly needed if we are to promote tourism.

The bid for Transco was declared a failure for the fourth time, as there was only one bidder. A reasonable increased offer was made but the government decided to try again in three months.

The Shanghai and Shenzhen index rose to a new high as China's growth in the first quarter was expected to be 10.2 percent. China would like to cool it to 9.7 percent for the year.

JFC announced a surprisingly good fourth quarter with its profit rising by 28 percent as the strong peso reduced the price of imported beef and potatoes. Sales rose 14 percent and margins increased.

RLC reported a 45-percent rise in fourth-quarter income to P606 million. URC made a huge profit from the sale of its shares in RLC, P3.6 billion, and might well pay out a large dividend, as it is sitting on a mountain of cash that is not required.

Petron announced that second-quarter profits almost tripled to an 11-year high of P572 million. Sales rose 40 percent to P46.7 billion.

Foreign buying of MBT reached extraordinary levels of P360 million a day and this has been going on for over a week.

The price target of MEG has been raised from P3 to P3.80, as the company will build 500,000 square meters of space within 5 years.

China and Taiwan stock markets will be closed from Feb. 19 to 23. *mrberabull@hotmail.com*

Tax breaks for REITs sought

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE (PSE) is proposing the inclusion of real estate investment trusts (REITs) in the Board of Investments' list of preferred investment areas.

PSE president Francis Lim said the listing of REITs in the Investments Priorities Plan would entitle project proponents to the incentive package offered by the BOI, including income tax holiday.

To boost volumes in the stock market, Lim said the REITs would also be required to list on the PSE.

An REIT is an organization similar to an investment company but focuses its holdings in real estate investments. The PSE earlier said it would spearhead a proposal that would seek the legislation of incentives for REITs. The measure that will be proposed to Congress, according to Lim, will provide REITs other tax breaks such as exemption or reduction of capital gains taxes and documentary stamp taxes.

The PSE chief said he was now working on the third draft of this proposal.

PSE officials estimated that the country's P600 billion worth of foreclosed properties could be tapped to start REITs.

With their earnings derived mainly from rent, REITs must distribute at least 90 percent of their income as dividends to their stockholders. A REIT also tends to offer higher yields. In Singapore, for example, its first REIT is the CapitaMall Trust (CMT), a mixture of suburban retail malls and a specialized information technology retail center.

Senate committee on banks chair Edgardo Angara last year said he wanted the private sector and its regulators to fast track proposals that would help put in place a law allowing property trust investments in the country.

91-day T-bill rate slumps to 2.885%

From page B1

The rate for the 364-day bills dropped by 17.8 basis points to 3.82 percent. The one-year government securities attracted P8.39 billion worth of bids compared with the government's offering of only P2 billion.

Swayed by the huge market appetite for the risk-free debt instruments, the Bureau of the Treasury's auction committee decided to accept more bids for the 91- and 182-day bills than its programmed borrowing. There were P700 million worth of three-month and P2.1 billion worth of six-month government securities accepted by the committee.

Asked for how long the low interest rate environment would be sustained, Cruz said yields for government securities would remain low as long as the outlook on inflation and the government's budget standing remained positive.

Anna Liza Ong, assistant vice president and head of sales at Amalgamated Investment Bancorporation (AIB), said interest rate would stay in the downtrend in the days, if not weeks, ahead, as dollar inflows from foreign portfolio investors continue to boost liquidity in the market.

She projected that the benchmark 91-day rate could further decline to 2.7 percent in the next auctions, and interest rate for the 10-year treasury bonds to drop to the 4-percent level.

"The market is awash with liquidity but there is not much outlet for investors; there is not much business to go into," Ong said. She explained that because foreign investors were still cautious about making capital investments in the Philippines, they were choosing portfolio investments from where they can easily get in and out.

The government's budget deficit settled at only P62.2 billion in 2006, much lower than the P125-billion ceiling set by fiscal authorities for the year.

Cruz said the government's declining deficit was reducing its need to borrow, resulting in a low supply of government securities. This, combined with the high demand for government securities, had been creating a downward pressure on interest rates.

He said the results of the recent bond swap also contributed to the decline in treasury bill rates as short-term debt instruments fetch lower rates as the cost of the government's long-term borrowings drop.

Under the swap concluded last Thursday, the government exchanged newly issued 3- and 5-year bonds worth P97.5 billion with older long-term government securities worth P88.6 billion held by investors who volunteered to exchange their bonds.

The P88.6 billion worth of bonds exchanged by investors was higher than the P50 billion expected by the government.

A bond swap is one of the strategies implemented by the Treasury to manage the government's liabilities. Under a bond swap, the government is able to stretch the average maturity of its debts and reduces the cost of its borrowings.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of February 19, 2007)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	13.25	15.25	13.25	15.25	2,310,900
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	64.5	64.5	62.5	63	1,540,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	69.5	70	69	69.5	363,400
China Banking Corp.	890	895	875	880	10,970
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	32	32	32	32	2,700
Citystate Savings Bank	19.75	19.75	19.75	19.75	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.53	0.54	0.53	0.53	8,560,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	118	118	112	113	503,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	68	68	66.5	66.5	2,865,000
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	55	55	55	55	1,000
Philippine National Bank	52	53.5	52	53	196,600
Phil. Savings Bank	63	65	63	65	5,800
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	42.5	43	42	42.5	507,100
Security Bank Corp.	81	88	81	86.5	575,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	64.5	64.5	64	64	22,200
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
ATR Kimeng Fin. Corp.	3.5	3.9	3.5	3.9	89,000
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	6.3	6.6	6.3	6.4	3,306,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	35	38	35	38	1,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1650	1650	1650	1650	490
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	2	2.08	2	2	424,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	560	650	560	630	13,310
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2120	2120	2120	2120	530
Ivantage Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.72	1.72	370,000
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
PNOC Energy Dev. Corp.	5.6	5.7	5.5	5.6	7,901,000
First Gen Corp.	57.5	58	57	57	108,100
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	78.5	79	78.5	79	143,800
Manila Electric Co. A	78	78	76	77	93,100
Manila Electric Co. B	78	78.5	77.5	78	258,700
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9.8	9.9	9.7	9.8	1,145,000
Petron Corp.	4.7	4.7	4.65	4.65	4,924,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	4,000,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.3	1.42	1.3	1.4	9,651,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	4	4	3.9	3.9	59,000
Cen Azucar De Tarlac	3.9	3.9	3.4	3.4	21,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28	28	27.5	27.5	25,400
Jollibee Foods Corp.	47	48	47	48	219,400
RFM Corp.	1.48	1.52	1.48	1.52	272,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.47	450,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64	65	64	65	88,100
San Miguel Corp. B	77.5	78	77.5	78	100,500
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4	4.1	4	4.1	12,000
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	10	10	10	10	600
Alliance Tuna Int'l. Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.08	2.08	394,000
Universal Robina Corp.	19.25	20	19.25	19.75	4,962,300
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	1.76	1.78	1.72	1.76	9,732,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	4.5	4.55	4.45	4.5	536,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	4.05	4.05	4	4	60,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.3	8.4	8.3	8.3	1,240,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	21,000
Republic Cement Corp.	6.6	6.7	6.5	6.6	1,060,000
CHEMICALS					
Chemrez Technologies Inc.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	2,987,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.35	73,420,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	5,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Asia Amalgamated Holdings	0.65	0.66	0.65	0.66	340,000
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	4.9	6.7	4.9	6.7	2,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	256,400,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	19,100,000
Ayala Corp.	645	645	625	625	49,100
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	80,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	8.2	8.4	8.2	8.4	9,332,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.0675	0.07	0.0675	0.0675	9,800,000
A. Soriano Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	590,000
APC Group Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.42	4,380,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	37,300,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.28	4,680,000
Pal Holdings Inc.	3.55	3.7	3.55	3.7	204,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.76	2.48	1.76	2.48	2,914,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.05	4.15	4	4.15	6,794,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.5	7.4	7.4	1,485,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.1	2,249,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	170,000
House of Investments Inc.	3.1	3.1	2.95	2.95	1,446,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	12	12.5	12	12.5	910,300
Keppel Holdings	1.98	2	1.98	2	80,000
Keppel Holdings B	2	2.1	2	2.1	99,000
Medco Holdings	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.39	420,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.6	0.8	0.6	0.69	28,390,000
Magnum Holdings Inc.	7.8	8.4	7.5	8.3	3,355,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	2.48	2.7	2.46	2.6	7,915,000
Pacifica	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	14,200,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	80,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1	1.14	1	1.08	330,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	42,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.72	0.73	600,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	7,230,000
SM Investments Corp.	400	400	390	390	242,050
South China Resources Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	5,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.76	1.76	176,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.16	0.17	0.155	0.17	5,900,000
Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	1,200,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	17	17	16.5	16.75	2,253,700
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.46	100,000
Belle Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.4	1.42	9,266,000
A Brown Company Inc.	1.46	1.54	1.42	1.52	7,096,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.88	2	1.88	2	460,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	1,080,000
C & P Homes Inc.	2.48	2.5	2.44	2.5	373,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	30,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	380,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.225	1,650,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.77	0.78	0.76	0.76	16,520,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.68	1.7	1.68	1.7	221,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	4,700,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.74	1.86	1.74	1.86	96,597,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	1,060,000
Gotesco Land Inc.B	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.24	760,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	160,000
Interport Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	56,700,000
Interport Res. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	57,200,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.55	0.55	0.53	0.53	1,120,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.89	0.89	0.88	0.89	8,480,000
Megaworld Corp.	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.2	92,729,000
Metro Pacific Inv. Corp.	5.2	5.2	5	5	128,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.36	0.38	0.36	0.38	1,130,000
Primex Corp.	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	120,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	21	21	21	21	5,762,400
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.8	0.8	0.77	0.78	19,670,000
SM Development Corp.	3.95	4.1	3.95	4.1	4,677,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	12.25	12.5	12.25	12.25	1,199,300
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.64	0.74	0.64	0.71	1,670,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.12	0.12	3,580,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25	25.5	24.75	25	75,700
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	130,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	2	2	1.98	2	15,798,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1390	1390	1355	1355	21,260
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	7	7	6.8	7	1,850,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2640	2640	2575	2585	219,310
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.36	4,640,000
Imperial Res.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	800,000
Ionics Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.38	2.38	441,000
IPVG Corp.	4.85	5.3	4.85	5.1	3,431,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	3,000,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.06	0.06	0.0575	0.06	8,600,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	70,000
Transpacific Broadband	2.3	2.44	2.3	2.36	4,817,000
Philweb Corp.	0.04	0.042	0.04	0.041	342,600,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05	27,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	7,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	27	28.5	27	28	3,020,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	1.16	1.2	1.14	1.2	165,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.65	4,172,000
Philippine Racing Club	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	1,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.88	0.9	0.86	0.88	4,610,000
EDUCATION					
iPeople Inc.	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.3	481,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.55	2.6	2.5	2.55	1,758,000
Paxys Inc.	28	28	27.5	27.5	195,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	5.9	5.9	5.7	5.8	305,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	6	6	5.8	5.9	182,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	182,600,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	9.3	9.3	9.2	9.2	473,000
Benguet Corp. A	11.25	11.5	11.25	11.5	45,000
Benguet Corp. B	35	35	35	35	5,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	89,000
Geograce Res. Phil. Inc.	1.4	1.58	1.38	1.58	175,158,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	17,280,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,310,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.027	192,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.03	21,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	179,300,000
Philex Mining Corp.	4	4.05	4	4.05	4,399,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	17.75	18.5	17.75	18.25	195,600
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.73	0.73	0.68	0.68	4,580,000
Vulcan Ind'l	1.32	1.32	1.2	1.26	12,214,000
OIL					
Basic Petroleum Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.29	0.3	3,850,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.014	416,300,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.014	230,400,000
The Philodrill Corp.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.012	594,200,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	10.25	10.25	10	10	431,700

CURRENCIES

February 19, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.761267	1.000000	48.1520
Japan	Yen	0.006382	0.008384	0.4037
United Kingdom	Pound	1.484622	1.950200	93.9060
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.097444	0.128002	6.1636
Switzerland	Franc	0.616810	0.810241	39.0147
Canada	Dollar	0.654797	0.860141	41.4175
Singapore	Dollar	0.497397	0.653381	31.4616
Australia	Dollar	0.598057	0.785608	37.8286
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.019275	2.652520	127.7241
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.202993	0.266652	12.8398
Brunei	Dollar	0.495778	0.651254	31.3592
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000111	0.0053
Thailand	Baht	0.022861	0.030030	1.4460
UAE	Dirham	0.207311	0.272324	13.1129
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.313600	63.2525
Korea	Won	0.000813	0.001068	0.0514
China	Yuan**	0.098158	0.128941	6.2088
Argentina	Peso	0.245254	0.322165	15.5129
Brazil	Real	0.363894	0.478011	23.0172
Denmark	Kroner	0.134213	0.176302	8.4893
India	Rupee	0.017353	0.022795	1.0976
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.218003	0.286369	13.7892
Mexico	New Peso	0.069225	0.090934	4.3787
New Zealand	Dollar	0.530204	0.696476	33.5367
South Africa	Rand	0.106396	0.139762	6.7298
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023079	0.030317	1.4598

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY Time—Feb. 16, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.

** Asian time closing rate as of Feb. 15, 2007

Toll and tan

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THE P17-BILLION "RADSTOCK" DEAL IS taking its toll on the Philippine National Construction Corp., the state-owned, publicly listed firm and franchise holder for the Luzon tollways NLEx and SLEx.

That franchise is expiring next month. Its renewal breezed through the House, and it did not surprise anybody. Not even House franchise committee chair Rep. Miguel "The Franchiser" Zubiri, who is in senatorial slate of this cute administration. Not even if he gets a tan in the campaign, okay!

Before the adjournment of this Congress, the Senate did not act on the PNCC application for a new franchise. And so there, in effect, goes the renewal.

Actually, it got stuck at the Senate committee on public services, chaired by Sen. Joker Arroyo, another cute administration candidate who used to attack Gloriaetta.

Whaaat? While the PNCC franchise sped through the House, it could not even pass through the Senate committee level?

My info is that Arroyo failed to get the votes for his committee report. Sen. Panfilo Lacson, for one, already approved it, but then withdrew his approval.

That was after Sen. Franklin Drilon made a scathing privilege speech against the "Radstock" deal, which is rumored to be the baby of somebody in the Palace.

The deal is actually a "compromise" to a debt collection case against PNCC, filed by Radstock Securities, incorporated in the British Virgin Islands, its directors unknown. (Breaktime June 20 and July 27, 2006)

To Drilon, it is the "scam of the century." And he seems to have mastered the workings of the deal. He even knows the important "dates" and "personalities" by heart.

His main concern is the P36-billion debt of PNCC with the national government. This, to his mind, is the most superior of all claims against PNCC.

Drilon thus vows to go to the Supreme Court to stop the "Radstock" deal.

To think, it already cost PNCC a new franchise.

* * *

ONE executive of the SSS calls it "blaming time," referring to the official probe on an allegedly dirty contract of the SSS worth more than P70 million.

In fact, the SSS commission already invited experts from outside to investigate the contract, including veteran auditors, computer techies and a retired judge.

It seems that SSS boss Corazon de la Paz gave her personal endorsement for the contract to get the final approval of the commission.

Thus, the "investigation" also looks at accountability, i.e., blame.

The contract involves "software maintenance" of the AFIS, which is the "automated fingerprint ID system," used for checking validity of SSS membership cards.

The system cost SSS about P1.4 billion. It is now, according to SSS top executives, in a sorry state of disrepair.

Of particular concern to the "probers" is not only the P70-million amount just for "maintenance," but also the P11 million that the SSS paid up front. You know, where did it go?

But how do they hear the side of De la Paz, who travels abroad most of the time, as she was absent again for half of last January, and with her travel schedule this month just about as hectic?

* * *

THAT paid ad from supposed "commuters" (Inquirer Feb. 19), calling on Gloriaetta to act fast on the deterioration of the Edsa MRT system, should be directed at the LRTA.

From what I gathered, the LRTA is pinning down the Edsa MRT extension project to the point of government inaction.

The "extension" is the unfinished portion of the Edsa system, running between Monumento in Caloocan, and North Triangle in Quezon City, connecting the Edsa MRT to the LRT-1 on Rizal Avenue.

LRTA is claiming the project to be part of LRT-1. For this to happen, LRT-1 must make a sharp turn on Edsa from Rizal Avenue at the Monumento circle.

That is unheard of—okay, impossible—for a train system. Thus, LRTA needs a huge area to detour the "sharp turn" to a semi-circle. This will cost a fortune.

But precisely, as its name implies, the Edsa MRT is designed for the entire stretch of Edsa. For the "extension," it already has the depot at the North Triangle meeting point.

In short, it costs less. Which savings, of course, under this cute administration, can hardly be any concern!

DO NOT GAMBLE...
YOUR TIME KEEPING DEVICE ON UNTESTED NEW BRANDS!
Trust only MYSOLUTIONS BIOMETRIC Time Keeping devices!
SUPERIOR QUALITY
AFFORDABLE PRICE
RELIABLE SYSTEM
T4
used by more than 500,000 companies worldwide
T3 F4 A11
. very EASY to use PLUG & PLAY system and does not require PC to operate
.can be linked with any windows-based payroll software
exclusively distributed by
MYSOLUTIONS
The No.1 Biometric Provider
call: 366-7313 / 367-6166 / 366-6488 / 364-4068 / 364-6355
visit: www.mysolutions.com.ph

Robinsons Bank
Peso Time Deposit

TERM	INTEREST RATES* per annum
1 year	5.0%
3 years	5.5%
5 years	6.0%

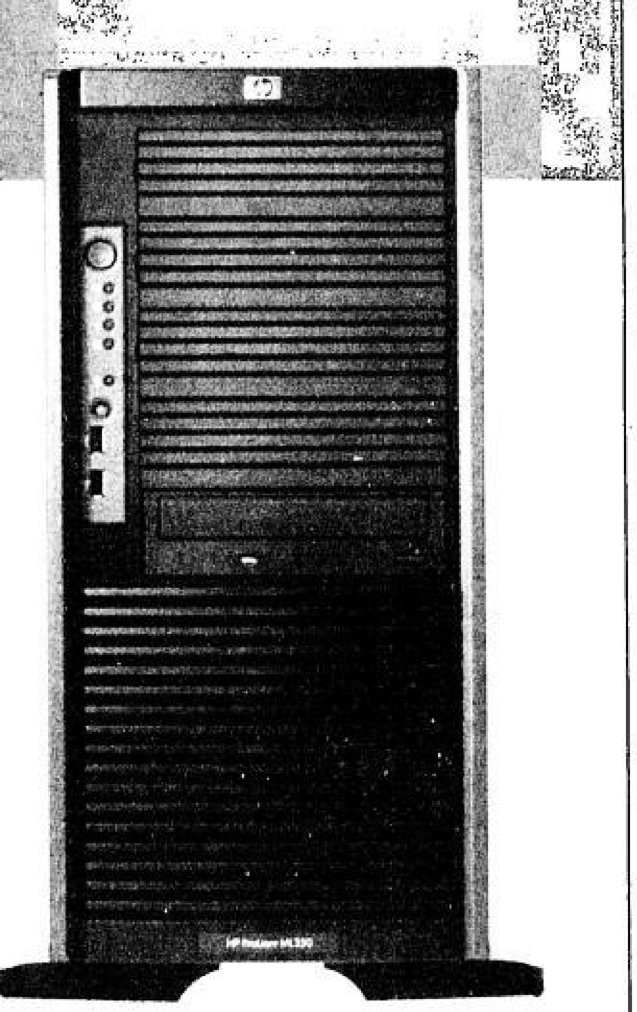
* Net of Documentary Stamp Taxes
* Gross of W/holding Taxes except for 5+1 yr term
* Monthly Interest Crediting for 5+1 yr term
* Subject to change w/out prior notice

For a LOW Minimum Deposit of ₱25,000
Loan Available for up to 90% of deposit and may also be used to secure a Robinsons Store Card.
Visit or call your nearest Robinsons Bank branch now! With 3 new branches to serve you in Marikina, Bonifacio Global City and Valenzuela.
For more information call Tel. No. 631-8888 or 1-800-10-631-8888 for toll free Provincial calls.
RobinsonsBank A Savings Bank
Where Your Hard-earned Money Grows.
RobinsonsBank 24/7 ATM
A JG Summit Company
Member Megalink and PDIC. Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor 250,000.00.

SUFFERING from PAYROLL CALCULATIONS?
It's time to terminate your traditional timeclock!
¹Avail of Mustard Seed's Payroll Outsourcing Services and get a FREE! Fingerprint Time & Attendance Device(OA 101).
FREE!
OA-101
Fingerprint Time & Attendance Reader
Or get the latest design of Biometric Time/Attendance devices.
OA-100
Fingerprint Time/Attendance
- Process 1,780 fingerprints
- Record 30,000 transaction
- Stand-alone system
- Dual verification capable: Password + Fingerprint.
- Includes management software
- Plug & Play

AV-100
Fingerprint Time/Attendance with Built-in Battery Back-up & USB slot
- Built-in: Battery back-up up to 3-4 hours
- USB slot
- Process 1,780 fingerprints
- Record 30,000 transaction
- Stand-alone system
- Networkable via TCP-IP or USB Slot
- Dual verification capable: Password + Fingerprint.
- Includes management software

FREE! Payroll PRO
²Just add 2 units of IBM Replacement Toners to OA-100 or AV-100 and get a FREE!!! Payroll Pro Software for 100 Employees. Package exclusive of training and other services. Maximum of 1 licensed copy of Payroll Pro software per company.
MUSTARD Seed SYSTEMS CORPORATION
www.mseedsystems.com
Simple enough? SIMPLIFY
YOUR ONE-STOP SHOP
FOR SALES INQUIRIES CONTACT:
+63(2) 533-1562 | 533-3612
533-6040 | 534-1529 | 533-4095



intel Xeon inside
Dual-core. Do more.
WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT VALUE.

Maximize your investment now at a lower price with the HP ProLiant ML350 G5 server, powered by the Dual-Core Intel® Xeon® Processor. This HP ProLiant ML350 G5 server, the best selling tower server in the world, is all new for its fifth generation with remarkable improvements to reliability, expandability, environmental, and performance features. Build the right infrastructure for your IT with these HP ProLiant servers. You'll also get the best investment protection, thanks to Integrated Lights Out 2 firmware that optimizes remote management and virtually eliminates the need for onsite assistance. And from Feb 14 to Feb 28, 2007, get a FREE HP 1 GB USB 2.0 thumb drive with every HP ProLiant 300 Series powered by Dual-Core Intel® Xeon® Processor bundle you buy in the Free Thumb Drive promo.

HP is a world leader in service and support. We provide expertise in manageability for Linux and Microsoft environments. Insist on HP Care Pack Services to keep your business up and running.

P170,000 | HP PROLIANT DL360 G5
- (1) Dual-Core Intel® Xeon® Processor 5120* (1.86GHz, 1066 MHz FSB)
- 1 GB (2 x 512 MB) Standard; PC2-5300 Fully Buffered DIMMs (DDR2-667)
- Embedded Dual NC373i Multifunction Gigabit NICs
- Smart Array E200i SAS RAID Controller with 64MB cache (RAID 0/1)
- (2) HP 72GB 10K SAS 2.5 Hot Plug Hard Drives
- FREE HP 1GB USB 2.0 Thumb Drive

P237,000 | HP PROLIANT DL380 G5
- (1) Dual-Core Intel® Xeon® Processor 5130* (2GHz, 1333 MHz FSB)
- 2 GB (2 x 1 GB) PC2-5300 Fully Buffered DIMMs (DDR2-667) with Advanced ECC, mirrored and online spare memory capabilities
- Embedded Dual NC373i Multifunction Gigabit NICs
- Smart Array P400 Controller with 256MB cache (RAID 0/1/5)
- (2) HP 72GB 10K SAS 2.5 Hot Plug Hard Drives
- FREE HP 1GB USB 2.0 Thumb Drive

P160,000 | HP PROLIANT ML350 G5
- (1) Dual-Core Intel® Xeon® Processor 5130* (2GHz, 1333 MHz FSB)
- 1 GB (2 x 512 MB) Standard; PC2-5300 Fully Buffered DIMMs (DDR2-667)
- Embedded Single NC373i Multifunction Gigabit NIC
- Smart Array E200i SAS RAID Controller with 128MB and BBWC
- (2) HP 72GB 10K SAS 2.5 Hot Plug Hard Drives
- FREE HP 1GB USB 2.0 Thumb Drive

P237,000 | HP PROLIANT ML370 G5
- (1) Dual-Core Intel® Xeon® Processor 5140* (2.33 GHz, 1333 MHz FSB)
- 65 Watts
- 2 GB PC2-5300 Fully Buffered DIMMs (DDR2-667)
- Embedded Dual NC373i Multifunction Gigabit NICs
- HP Smart Array P400/256MB Controller (RAID 0/1/5)
- (2) HP 72GB 10K SAS 2.5 Hot Plug Hard Drives
- FREE HP 1GB USB 2.0 Thumb Drive

Get HP IGB USB 2.0 Thumb Drive until February 28, 2007 only!

1-800-1441-6688
or (632) 867-3557
ph.contact@hp.com
www.iloveproliant.com

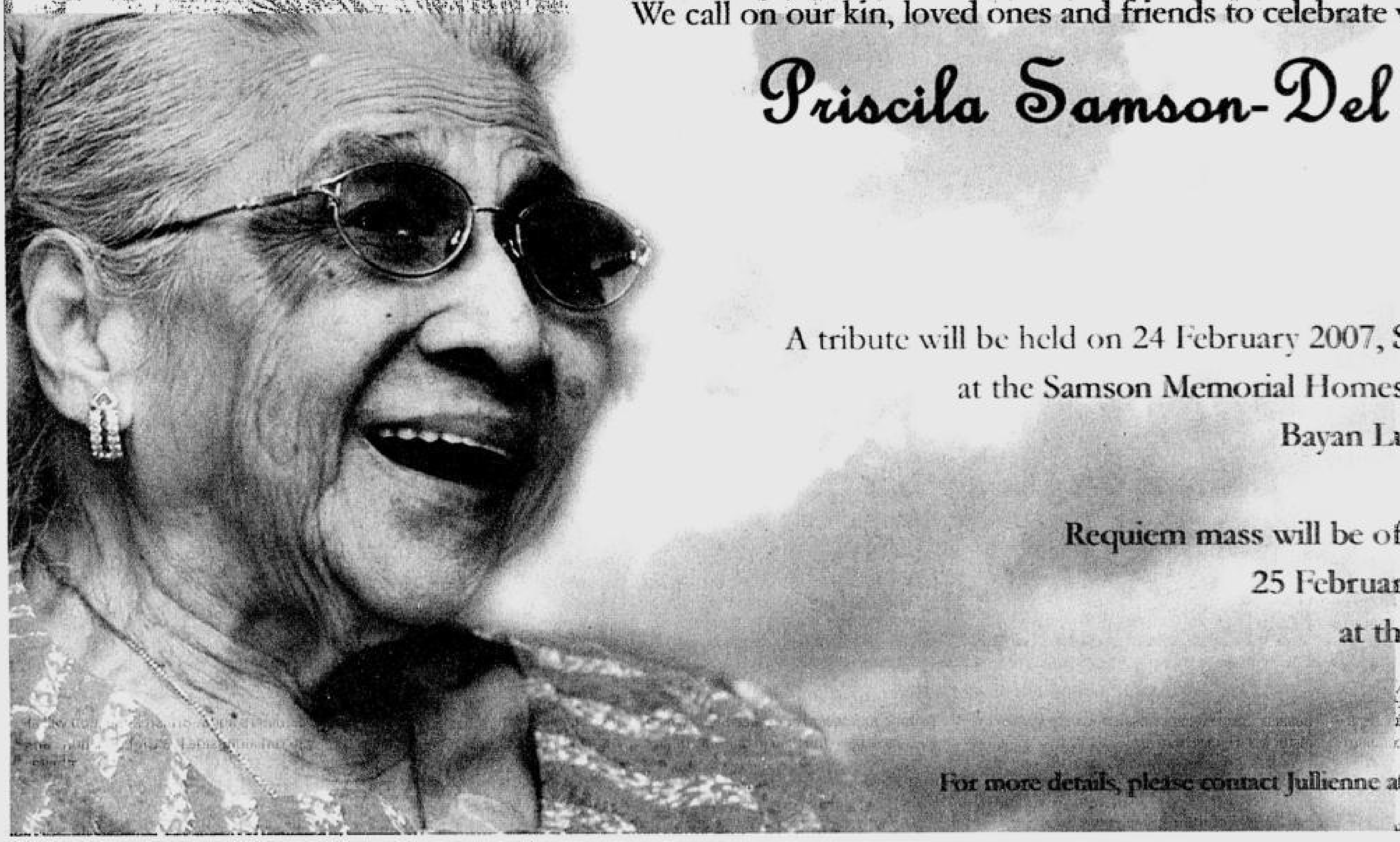
Terms and Conditions : • Prizes are not convertible to cash. • Further decrease in bundle pricing will disqualify bundle in promotion. • Thumb drive will come from your reseller
©2007 Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. Core Inside, Intel, Intel Logo, Intel Core, Intel Inside, Intel Inside Logo, Xeon, and Xeon Inside are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries.
The HP Contact Center is available Mondays thru Fridays 8.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m

Her unconditional love nourished us
Her strength of character unified a noble family
Her generous spirit opened our hearts to service
Her music and gentle touch calmed our souls

She is our inspiration
To lead a life well lived, in obedience to the Lord's Will

We, the children of Ising, will honor our mother
who has peacefully returned to the loving embrace of her Creator.
We call on our kin, loved ones and friends to celebrate with us the life of

Priscila Samson-Del Mundo



A tribute will be held on 24 February 2007, Saturday, 8:00 PM
at the Samson Memorial Homes' Bahay Ugnayan,
Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite

Requiem mass will be offered on Sunday,
25 February 2007, 2:00 PM
at the Imus Cathedral.

For more details, please contact Jullienne at 893.5642 or 893.5690

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith

(2 Timothy 4)

In Loving Memory of

BASILISA SISON ESCANO

who passed away on February 16, 2007
at the age of 98.

Her children & in-laws, **Karlos & Esmeralda, Lourdes (†) & Bugs, Carmen & Roberto (†), Isidro & Mira, Piedad & Ernesto, Antonio & Milagros, Francisco (†) & Estela, Fr. Immanuel** and **Monserrat**; her sister-in-law, **Remedios vda. de Sison**; nephews, nieces, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Ancestral Home at Gov. Antonio Sison St., Lingayen, Pangasinan.

Interment will be on Thursday, February 22, 2007 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Epiphany Co-Cathedral, Lingayen, Pangasinan.

GREGORIO TORIO ZAMUCO

(Former Dean, College of Forestry, UPLB)

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on the 17th of February 2007 at the age of 105.

His children **Teofilo** and **Lourdes, Jaime** and **Medarle, Sid** and **Anselma**; grandchildren **Melissa** and **Gary Mercado, May** and **Eugene Carangal, Licelle** and **David Lam, Eric** and **Janice Zamuco, Randy Zamuco, Leo Zamuco** and **Louie Zamuco**; and great-grandchildren **Arianna** and **Roque Mercado** and **Charly Julianne Lam** request the pious readers to pray for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Therese Church, UPLB, College, Laguna

Feb. 19, 2007 – Monday 1:00 PM – Necrological Services

Feb. 20, 2007 – Tuesday 8:00 AM – Eucharistic Celebration
Depart from UPLB to St. Alphonsus Parish Center, Magallanes Village, Makati City

Feb. 22, 2007 – Thursday 2:00 PM – Eucharistic Celebration, burial to follow at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

VICTORIA T. BALINGIT

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on February 17, 2007 at the age of 93.

Her bereaved husband, **Willy**; children **Goring, Cely, Mely & Remy**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Jose Rizal Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park), Parañaque City.

Interment will be at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 27, 2007 at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Our Dearly Beloved, Papa

LEONARDO TRINIDAD de GUZMAN

Peacefully passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on February 18, 2007 at the age of 78.

His loving wife, **Nena**; children **Marissa** and **Eddie, Rene** and **Aurora, Margie, Ed** and **Teresa, Grace, Rogie** and **Bernie, Ricky**, and **Raul** and **Malou**; grandchildren **Monica, Tommy, Teddy** and **Timmy, Angela, Ace** and **Rizza, Eric** and **Eio, David, Daniel** and **Diego, Keeche** and **Miggy, Adrian** and **Pauline**, brother and sisters, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Imperial chapel at the La Funeraria Paz, Inc., G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on February 24, 2007 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the La Funeraria Paz.

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

Thick & Easy improves nutrition, quality of life

STARCH-BASED THICKENERS like Thick & Easy go a long way in improving the nutrition and quality of life of patients with swallowing disorders.

Manufactured Fresenius Kabi, the leader of infusion therapy and clinical nutrition in Europe, Thick & Easy allows stroke patients, those recovering from thyroid surgery as well as people suffering from head and neck injuries, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, motor neuron diseases and cerebral palsy to better control the food they eat.

Ordinarily, regular food breaks down into particles when chewed, making it difficult for patients with impaired mouth and throat muscles to swallow it. Thick & Easy answers this problem by turning food and drink into a dense, cohesive consistency that allows patients to better control the food in their mouth before swallowing.

As its name suggests, Thick & Easy is simple to use. It comes in powder form and the recommended amount can be sprinkled directly into the food and drink. The solution stops thickening after one minute, allowing the food to retain a uniform consistency.

It can also be used as a soaking solution for biscuits and breads and works with a wide range of beverages.

In fact, Dr. William L. Lim, a surgeon with St. Luke's Medical Center specializing in head and neck injuries, says that one of his patients finds Thick & Easy so versatile, he sprinkles it on everything, "including soft drinks and energy drinks!"

Credit that to the fact that Thick & Easy has no taste, allowing patients to enjoy the real flavors of their food and drink.

Dr. Lim finds the ready availability of Thick & Easy a godsend. He says that his patients, most of who suffer from a swallowing disorder because of paralyzed vocal cords, used to buy their thickeners from the United States. He advises patients with swallowing disorders to put thickeners like Thick and Easy on liquids they can't handle. "In that way, they regain their ability to eat."

Thick & Easy also releases 98 percent of the available fluids in food. This prevents dehydration, and addresses other systemic complications of patients with swallowing disorders, including malnutrition and weight loss.

For patients, the benefit are twofold. They get the nutrition vital to their recovery and, thanks to Thick & Easy, regain the dignity and quality of life once lost to them by a life-changing infirmity.

Thick & Easy is now available at selected Mercury Drugstores.

UPSE BATCH 1981 DONATES TO ALMA MATER

UPSE Batch 1981 recently turned over their batch gift of P1 million to the University of the Philippines School of Economics. The donation will be used to renovate and upgrade the multi-purpose UPSE room 114 and will finance other school needs. In photo, flanking Dean Raul Fabella, are batch representatives Gootzie Etorma-Herrera and BSP Deputy Governor Nesting Espenilla.

BDO TRUST APPOINTED TRUSTEE TO 3M PHILS RETIREMENT FUND

Key officers of 3M Philippines Inc and Banco de Oro Universal Bank (BDO) recently signed an agreement appointing BDO Trust Banking Group as Trustee to the 3M Philippines Inc Hybrid Retirement Fund. In photo during the signing are (from left) Severino Santillan, 3M Phils sourcing manager; Ma. Luisa Espinola, 3M Phils HR manager; Gregorio Serrano, 3M Phils finance and IT manager; Ador Abrogena, BDO trust officer and EVP; Noel Andrada, BDO Trust FVP; and Fitzgerald Aclan, BDO Trust AVP. 3M Phils Inc is a manufacturing and distribution company in the Philippines since 1973. With over 10,000 innovative products, the company aims to provide solutions for industrial, transportation, electro and communication, health care, display and graphics, safety and security, consumer and office needs. 3M Phils Banco de Oro Universal Bank has a long list of Pathfinder Awards to its credit, mainly recognized for the company's product innovation and creativity.

SAKO NG M LHUILLIER PAWNSHOPS APPOINTS ASIANLIFE

Samahan Ng Kooperatiba (Sako) Ng M. Lhuillier Pawnshops appoints AsianLife & General Assurance Corp (AsianLife) as its insurer in providing medical insurance benefits for their dependents and PhilInsure as its insurance broker/consultant. AsianLife is part of the ATR KimEng Group, the leading conglomerate of diversified non-bank financial services in the Philippines. Shown in photo are (front from left) Sako manager Macario Quevedo; PhilInsure vice president Jackie Wenceslao; AsianLife EVP Bobby Alfonso; Sako chair Gina Rosales; Sako vice chair Eddie Dext Garcia; (back from left) Sako credit committee member Jocelyn Miranda; Sako credit committee member Lilian Lim; Sako director Alexander Sebalda; Sako director Rolando Tolentino; Sako director Ma. Florevic Narvas; AsianLife AVP Jing Sotelo; PhilInsure account officer Prinky Cruse; Sako Ele-Com Hermelo Redusta; Sako director Manuel Quiero Jr.; Sako AIC Van Roque Evangelista; Sako treasurer Renilda Cedro; Sako director Leovir Solomon.

Bits & Clips

22nd chemistry confab

OVER 700 CHEMISTS FROM INDUSTRY, government and academe are expected to attend the 22nd Philippine Chemistry Congress, (22PCC) which will be held at the DAP Convention Center in Tagaytay City, from April 10 to 13. The Philippine Chemistry community will highlight the concerns of food safety and the environment during the Congress. The 22PCC will gather experts from the Philippines and abroad to discuss recent developments and trends in the diverse fields of chemistry. Plenary sessions on food analysis, food quality, national and international standards, environmental analysis, as well as their implications for cleaner production (Green Chemistry) and Chemical Education are in store for participants. Participants can join the free industry and ecology tours scheduled on the first and last days of Congress on a first-come-first-served basis. Early bird rates are available for registrants until March 5 only. Reservations for accommodation at DAP are also now accepted. Interested individuals and institutions may obtain details on the program from the website of the Integrated Chemists of the Philippines (http://www.icp.org.ph/), or e-mail the ICP: icp@boost.ph.

Relay For Life 2007

NOW ON ITS 3RD YEAR, THE PHILIPPINE Cancer Society is organizing Relay For Life in cooperation with the American Cancer Society (ACS). As the finale of this program, an 18-hour overnight campout will be held on Feb. 23 to 24, at the Amoranto Stadium, Quezon City. The campout seeks to bring together in one place those whose lives have been touched in one way or another by cancer – survivors, relatives and loved ones of victims and victors, caregivers, medical practitioners and sympathizers. Join the fun and celebrate life! Calling on students, clubs, companies, organizations, members of the medical community and volunteers to take part in the Relay for Life 2007. Call Philippine Cancer Society at 734-3114 or 734-2127, or e-mail at pcsi@philcancer.com.

MHPHS Batch '57 Golden Jubilee

IN CELEBRATION OF ITS 50TH GRADUATION anniversary, the Marcelo H. del Pilar High School class 1957 is organizing a grand Alumni Homecoming which will take place at the school campus in Sta. Isabel, Malolos City in Bulacan on March 24, a Saturday. The theme for this event is "Balik MHP Eskwela… Tara at ibalik ang saya!!!" The affair is expected to attract jubilarians from around the province as well as those from Metro Manila and abroad. Contact person in Metro Manila are Rudy Tayao, tel. no. 816-2822 and Rudy Barredo, tel. no. 868-0350. In Malolos, please contact Cris Santiago, tel. no. (044)791-0703 and Cora Sebastian Maog, tel. no. (044)791-4111.

1st Contact Center Training Convention

SPEECHPOWER, THE COUNTRY'S TOP trainer in communication, joins the first-ever Contact Center Training Convention slated on Feb. 21 and 22 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. Under the auspices of TeleDevelopment, the said event is dubbed as the biggest gathering of communication practitioners and call center training executives under one roof. It is also labeled as the 'only' training convention where speakers are from the industry. Participants are training directors, training managers, trainers, course developers, HR managers, site directors, and operations managers. Speechpower is represented in the convention by its founder and president, Jose M. Mordeno Jr. On Feb. 21, Wednesday, 3:45 p.m., he is going to deliver a highly-anticipated talk on motivational techniques. He is expected to shed new insights on the said topic. Indeed, Speechpower takes singular pride in being a part of this premiere industry training event of the year. Speechpower is strategically located at Speechpower-Joshua Building, 932 Aurora Boulevard, near corner 20th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City (911-0832 to 34); 4/F Dona Amparo Bldg, España corner Tolentino Streets, Sampaloc, Manila (735-7256/735-7312/735-7262); and 2116 Buendia corner Taft Avenues, Pasay City (833-2921/833-2836).

SSAI Homecoming

EMPLOYEES OF THE SORIAMONT Steamship Agencies Inc (SSAI) are invited to the Ist General Homecoming on March 17, at the Rooftop, Transcend Cargo Express, 2739 Heneral Capinpin St., Bangkal, Makati City. For details, please contact: Marife Fetalino-Magud at 0920-6417728; Tony de Guzman 0922-8390098; Patrick Ronas 0917-5228965 and Cecile Espinosa 0917-5395548 or at 889-4955 to 57.

Study in the UK

BRITISH COUNCIL PHILIPPINES WILL hold the annual Education UK Fair at the Kamia Room of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel on Feb. 23 and 24 from 2 to 7 p.m. Free seminars about British Education will also run alongside the UK Education Fair. To pre-register, please visit the website www.britishcouncil.org.ph. For more information, call 914-1011 to 14. Admission to the UK Education Fair is free.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cagayan
Municipality of Amulung

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT OF AMULUNG, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers / manufacturers / distributors / contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project.

Name of Project	:	Farm Tractors – Natural Aspirated (Brand New)
Location	:	Centro, Amulung, Cagayan
Approved Budget for the Contract	:	Two Million One Hundred Sixty Thousand Pesos (2,160,000.00)

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Posting/Advertisement	Feb. 19-25, 2007
2. Sale of Documents	Feb. 21-27, 2007, 4 PM
3. Pre-Bid Conference	Feb. 27, 2007, 9 AM
4. Submission & Opening of Bids	March 12, 2007, 9 AM

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Thousand Pesos (3,000.00). Bid Documents to the Office of the Municipal Trasurer.

The LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT OF AMULUNG reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) JUDITH S. DELA CRUZ
BAC - Chairman

Noted by:
(Sgd.) ATTY. NICANOR C. DE LEON
Municipal Mayor

(PDI – February 20, 2007)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
JFEnriquez Memorial Sports Complex, Z.C.
Telefax: 993-1514 / Direct Line: 991-6004
Trunk Line: 992-2470

DepED

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **Department of Education, Division of Zamboanga City**, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project		**Supply & Delivery of CY 2006 School Furniture**
Location		**Division of Zamboanga City, JFE Memorial Sports Complex, Zamboanga City**
Brief Description	:	**Elementary tables and chairs with teachers' tables and chairs** **Secondary Armchairs with teachers' tables and chairs**
ABC & Funding Source	:	**P 2,974,000.00**
Contract Duration		**120 days from the date of acceptance of Notice to Proceed**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interests or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents.

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

Activities	Date	Venue
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Feb. 26-28, Mar. 1, 2, 5 & 6	Office of the ASDS
2. Pre-bid Conference	March 14, 2007, 1:30 PM	Division Office Conference Room
3. Deadline of Submission of Bids	March 21, 2007, 1:30 PM	Division Office Conference Room
4. Opening of Bids	March 21, 2007	Division Office Conference Room

Bid Documents will be available only to **prospective bidders** upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Php 2,500.00** to the **DepED Zamboanga City Division** Cashier.

The **DepED Zamboanga City Division**, reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) PEDRO MELCHOR M. NATIVIDAD
BAC Chairperson

(PDI – February 20, 2007)

ONLINE
www.henrybutcher.com
On the instructions of Chocoking, Inc. as a result of their upgrade programme
Capsule Filling; Confectionery Wrapping and Packaging Machinery
Including: -
ZANASI SPA Z-5000/R-1 Automatic Capsule Filling Machine;
Wellhand S101 Vacuum Forming and Cutting Machine;
WELLHAND SP340 Horizontal Flow Wrapping Machine;
(5) SUNSHINE SP202 Auto-Form Film Seal Packing Machines;
SOONTRUE PS160 Wrapping Machine
Sale Closing: Thursday, 22nd February 2007 at 18:00 CCT
Located: Manila, Philippines
Viewing: Strictly by Appointment
To register please visit our website: www.goindustry.com
For further information please contact Mike Ramos at
Tel: 852 2910/11 loc. 109 Email: mike.ramos@henrybutcher.com
GoIndustry Henry Butcher
HENRY BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES INC.
Rm. 102 Jollibee Bldg., 670 Edsa, Pasay City, Phils.
Tel No.: +63 2 852 2910 / 11 / 854 4917 19
Fax No.: +63 2 831-9507
E-mail:manila@henrybutcher.com

OBITUARIES

Justice
ROBERTO ACEVEDO BARRIOS

Executive Judge of RTC – Roxas City and Manila
Chairman 4th Division, Court of Appeals

Passed away in the grace of our Lord at the age of 62, on February 18, 2007.

His wife **Jeannie**
children: **Carrie** and **Edwin**, grandchild **Toby**
Liza
Rhett
sister **Connie**, brother-in-law **Gordon Yap**
brother **Tonet**, sister-in-law **Beth**

nephews and nieces, his relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Christ the King Parish Chapel, Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City on February 19-22, 2007 and at Roxas City on February 23-26, 2007.

Sa iba mura daw As-is naman, may hidden charges pa
Special Unit of the Month
Pahabol sa Tag-lamig Presyong mainit
Over 100 units to choose from.
*PAJERO *BIG HORN
*HI-ACE *FRIENDEE
*SPACE GEAR and many more...
Fully Finish Units dito kana walang sakit ng ulo!
FRESH IMPORT & W/ WARRANTY
NO HIDDEN CHARGES
FINANCING AVAILABLE
*SERENA 230M New Type
SHELL STATION CVC BURGER KING STA. LUCIA EAST MALL TO SUMULONG / MASINAG MARCOS HI-WAY LTO Mc DONALD OVERPASS
PERFECT LOGISTICS PHIL., INC
Perfect Logistic Phils., Inc.
Marcos Hi-way, Cainta, Rizal
Call Tel.:682-2858 · 0922-8160417 · 0916-2069813 · 0918-5886075
http//www.perfectcardeals.com

BUY * SELL * PAWN
WATCHES
JEWELRY
DIAMONDS
BEST OFFER IN TOWN
844-2995
8040484
0917-8141967

WE BUY
at HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
HIS & HERS Watch Center
GoldCrest Bldg.
Glorietta-2
5646593 5897041
0917-8473744

PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE
PAWN*BUY*SELL
WATCHES
Jewelry & Diamonds
BEST APPRAISAL
Secondo Glorietta 1
Tel# 894-0282
Agencia de Makati
Tel# 889-7956

07 URVAN
ESCAPADE
10 HOURS P1,800
WITH DRIVER
7878776
7964377
09213497170

Erratum

In the Invitation to Bid of **ASIATRUST Bank** published last Feb. 18, 2007, Minimum Bid Price should be **P118M** and submission of Bids should be on or before **FEBRUARY 23** and not as published.

– Asiatrust Bank.

More Classifieds
Department of Agrarian Reform Page A18
DOLE-NCR Page A19

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

BUSINESS

$1-B China loan sought for Laiban dam project

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE METROPOLITAN WATERworks and Sewerage System hopes to secure a $1-billion loan from the China Export-Import Bank to finance the Laiban Dam project.

The MWSS said that the Laiban Dam would provide additional fresh water resource to address Metro Manila's increasing needs.

According to Macra Cruz, MWSS deputy administrator, the agency and the China Ex-Im Bank are now in talks, exploring the possibility of starting up the project by 2008.

Cruz said the MWSS and the Chinese bank had recently signed a memorandum of understanding for a related project—the rehabilitation of the water system connecting Angat Dam to the metropolis—worth $400 million.

Under the Angat Water Utilization and Aqueduct Improvement Project, the government will invest $400 million to improve water supply, transmission, treatment, distribution and storage.

The Asia Water Watch 2015 study, commissioned by the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations, estimated that annual investments of at least $8 billion would be needed over the next decade to meet the Millennium Development Goal targets for safe drinking water and sanitation.

"Additional investments are needed for irrigation services, river basin management, flood management and mitigation to ensure the future of this precious resource," the ADB said.

For FAST & EASY payroll processing use..,
MSi PAYROLL
the COMPLETE payroll system designed for SME's.
To all CPA's & Business Consultancy Agents: Refer our products and earn EXTRA commission.
OTHER MSI PRODUCTS:
MSI Daily Time Recording (DTR)
MSI Personnel Info.System (PIS)
FREE DEMO w-in M.M.
ATTENTION MSI PAYROLL USERS:
Latest version with the new SSS and PHIC Table for Premium Contribution for 2007 is now available.
METROSOFT, INC. LG1 Cityland 9, Dela Rosa Condo., Dela Rosa St., Makati City Tel.:892-2798 I 894-1525 I 892-4530 I 892-4536 I 892-2808 I 894-1043 Fax No.: 892-2795 E-mail: msi@vasia.com; msipay@yahoo.com

CRANE VALVES
HAWK ANCHOR
Nashua ALUMINUM DUCT TAPE
SUNLOID PVC PLATES WELDING RODS, FLANGES
Gould SOLENOID VALVES
NIBCO FITTINGS FOR COPPER PIPING
IMPORTER & STOCKLIST
ARMSTRONG CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY
358 G. ARANETA AVE., SANTOL, QUEZON CITY
TELS. 7135211 TO 13 • 7135191 FAX 7135182

FREE INVESTORS SEMINAR
Wednesday to Saturday at 2:00 pm
₱60 MILLION WORTH OF COMMISSIONS
to be given away in the next 6 months!!!
HOW? EASY!
We will show you how to save 40% off the usual price of a condo thru the BUILD-YOUR-OWN Method and at the same time earn lots of commission.
WHAT'S MORE?
Now is the best time to invest in real estate and the best place is at Bonifacio Global City.
BUT WAIT!
Due to popular demand, we have
LIMITED SEATS ONLY...
So hurry and give us a call for a reservation at:
815-8080 / 0917-5310551 / 0928-5020333 / 0928-2453646 / 0917-9439382 / 0915-4006423
FIRST GLOBAL BYO CORP.
Fort Bonifacio Stop Over corner 32nd St. & Rizal Drive Global City (between Starbucks & Jollibee)
Free snacks and gifts for the first 30 guests.
Brokers, sales agents, businessmen and professionals are all WELCOME to attend.

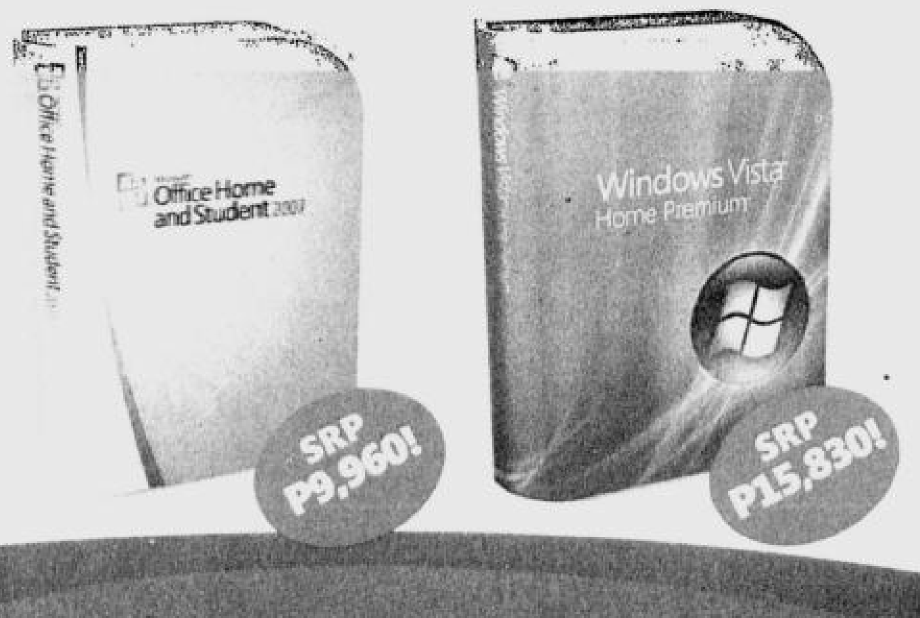
LINK YOUR POINT-OF-SALE SYSTEM TO YOUR ACCOUNTING SYSTEM!

MUSTARD Seed
PointOfSale PRO
Simply ACCOUNTING
FREE
AVG Anti-Virus
FREE

Get Simply Accounting and POS Pro for only Php 33,500
And get a FREE AVG Anti-Virus (1 user license) plus a FREE Thermal Receipt Printer as well!
MUSTARD Seed SYSTEMS CORPORATION www.mseedsystems.com
FOR SALES INQUIRIES CONTACT
+63(2) 533-1562 | 533-3612
533-6040 | 534-1529 | 533-4095

5.5% Guaranteed Tax-free Fixed Monthly Income
• Affordable at a minimum of PhP 50,000
• Secured 5-year placement, tax-free
• Accessible monthly income
* Quoted rate is on a per annum basis and subject to change without prior notice.
Get it now at any PSBank branch.
PSBank Prime TIME DEPOSIT
Text PSBANK PRIME <your name> <landline no.> <email address> then send to 391-772 for Smart or 0917-8902327 for Globe and other networks.
Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum deposit insurance for each depositor P250,000

2007 Microsoft Office and Windows Vista
DOUBLE DEAL!
On Boxed or Full Package Product (FPP)
From February 19 to March 30, 2007 only
Due to the overwhelming response to the launch of the all-new 2007 Microsoft Office and Windows Vista, we're bringing you these irresistible deals!



Deal 1!
Get things done quickly and make it easier, safer and more entertaining to use your PC anytime, anywhere with the all-new 2007 Microsoft Office and Windows Vista.
Deal 2!
Every purchase of a Boxed or Full Package Product of 2007 Microsoft Office or Windows Vista entitles you to a jacket from Microsoft — absolutely FREE — plus TWO raffle coupons for a chance to win any of these exciting prizes:
• A 3-day, 2-night trip to Hong Kong Disneyland for a group of four with airport transfers and accommodations
• Two winners of Compaq Presario laptops
• Three winners of Xbox 360 gaming consoles

For more information:
• Call Microsoft at the following numbers: Manila (632) 672 7230 or Cebu (6332) 238 7090
• Send us an email at mmph@microsoft.com
• See posters or visit www.microsoft.com/philippines/fppdoubledeal for full promo mechanics
• Or get in touch with any of these participating Microsoft Resellers:
Accent Micro Products Mini Microsoft Store Megamall (632) 634-1294 • Asianic Mini Microsoft Store Park Square (632) 893-0408 • Complink SM City North Edsa (632) 920-9140 • Electroworld Avant Greenbelt 4 (632) 758-2315 • Electroworld Ayala Center Cebu (6332) 232-5968 • Electroworld Park Square (632) 812-3880 • Electroworld SM Cebu (6332) 232-0751 • Electroworld SM Mall of Asia (632) 556-0118 • Macromind Megamall (632) 655-4388 • Ng Khai Ayala Center Cebu (6332) 232-4546 • Ng Khai SM Cebu (6332) 412-0068 • PC Express, Alabang Town Center (632) 807-6492 • Silicon Valley, 2F, North Wing, Bay Blvd., Pasay City, (632) 556-0151 • Thinking Tools SM Cebu (6332) 234-1788 • Thinking Tools Tabok, Mandaue City (6332) 254-2227 • Villman Ayala Branch (632) 892-2222 • Villman Microsoft Store SM Mall of Asia (632) 556-0200
• To know more about the all-new 2007 Microsoft Office and Windows Vista, visit www.nowpossible.ph
Microsoft
A boxed or Full Package Product comes with a CD, an end-user license agreement (EULA) and a manual. Promotion applies to all applicable SKUs of 2007 Microsoft Office and Windows Vista FPP. Packaging differs between SKUs. A purchase of Office Home and Student 2007 requires the presentation of a valid school ID.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0622, Series of 2007.

IN THIS ISSUE
A more positive term for diet /C3

LIFESTYLE
Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

NO SUGAR. NO CARBS.
20g of WHEY PROTEIN
PROTEIN WATER
The COOL way to STAY FIT!
- In the GYM
- On a Diet
- On the Court
- For a Healthy Lifestyle

Available at Mercury Drug, SM, Robinson's, Shopwise, SouthStar Drug, Rustan's, Landmark, Puregold and Fitness First
For inquiries call Precieze: 723-2462 / 7277945

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS ◉ TUESDAY FITNESS ◉ WEDNESDAY 2BU ◉ THURSDAY FOOD ◉ FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

WELL AND GOOD
Tina Juan

Bones need more than calcium

CALCIUM IS LIKE the lead singer of a band who gets more publicity than she deserves. An over-hyped diva, she only sounds fantastic because of her back-up singers and other band members.

When it comes to bone health and osteoporosis, scientists now know that calcium does not work alone. It needs the help of a supporting cast of nutrients to be effectively absorbed and utilized.

These other nutrients have their own unique contributions to keeping bones healthy.

The recommended dosages of calcium are 1,000-1,200 mg for women below 50 and 1,500 mg for women above 50. Best sources are milk, cheese, yogurt, small fish, dark green vegetables, and mineral water.

If you can't get enough calcium from your food, then you need a supplement. To know if your calcium tablet will be properly absorbed, place it in a small amount of warm water for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.

If it doesn't dissolve by then, it's not a good brand.

Whether from food or supplements, calcium is best used by the body in doses of 500 mg or less so take your daily requirement in two or three separate doses.

Sunshine vitamin

Vitamin D has been called the "sunshine vitamin" because your body can make its own supply by using the power of the sun. It has also been called "miracle vitamin" because emerging research indicates it can lower the risk of 16 types of cancer by two to 70 percent.

The National Osteoporosis Foundation (US) says without an adequate intake of vitamin D, half the calcium you take is flushed away in your toilet.

Other nutrients have their own contributions to make

Fifteen minutes of sun exposure of your hands and face is enough for your daily dose.

The problem is many people don't want to go out in the sun because of fear of premature skin aging and skin cancer. Also, the older you get, the more inefficient your body is at making vitamin D.

How much do you need? Some scientists maintain that the current recommended dosage of 400 IU (international unit) is enough (200 IU for children, 600 IU if you are above 60). But others suggest 800-1,000 IU daily for adults is more accurate based on growing evidence from many studies.

Food sources include fortified milk and cereals (read the labels carefully), salmon, mackerel, and egg yolks.

The most effective form of vitamin D in supplements is cholicalciferal or vitamin D3, the same type your skin makes.

B for bones

What's bad for your heart may also be bad for your bones. High levels of homocysteine are associated with an increased risk of heart disease and hip fractures.

Dutch scientists believe blood protein may hamper bone construction. The best line of defense, researchers say, is an adequate intake of folic acid (400 mcg), B6 (2 mg), and B12 (6 mcg) that can be found in many foods and multi-vitamin supplements.

A Tufts University study found that women with low levels of vitamin B12 (less than 6 mcg) had less dense spines, while men had less dense hipbones.

Researchers say people above 50 absorb the vitamin better in concentrated form from a multivitamin rather than food sources.

Folic acid or folate can be found in dark green vegetables, grains, liver, and beans. B6 is found in beans, nuts, legumes, eggs, meat, fish, and whole grains, while B12 is only found naturally in animal products like meat, fish, poultry, eggs, and milk.

Vitamin K

Vitamin K is best known for its clotting effect. But it is also important in keeping the "scaffolding" in the inner structure of your bones strong.

The current recommended dose is 90-150 mcg. Scientists stress it is best to get vitamin K from food sources only. It is easily found in dark green leafy vegetables.

Since it is a fat-soluble vitamin, sautéing *pechay* or *kangkong* in a little oil or eating dark salad greens with a vinegar-and-oil dressing ensures proper absorption of this important vitamin.

Boron

This little known mineral helps reduce the loss of calcium and magnesium through the urine. It is found in vegetables (cabbage has the highest amounts), nuts, grains, apples, pears, and dried fruits.

Magnesium

Magnesium, like calcium, helps to provide density to your bones. One study found it played a greater role than calcium in preventing hip fractures in elderly women.

The recommended dose is 400 mg. Among the richest sources are pumpkin seeds (one ounce has 151 mg). Magnesium can also be found in bran, nuts, beans, brown rice, dark green vegetables, and soy products.

Unfortunately, overcooking can destroy a significant amount of magnesium in beans and vegetables.

Potassium

Potassium is the partner of vitamin K in strengthening bone scaffolding. It also prevents calcium loss. You can get the suggested dosage of 4,700 mg from orange juice, raisins, prunes, bananas, cantaloupes, avocado, fish, and milk.

Extras

Isoflavones in soy products may be one reason why Chinese and Japanese women have less osteoporosis than their Caucasian counterparts.

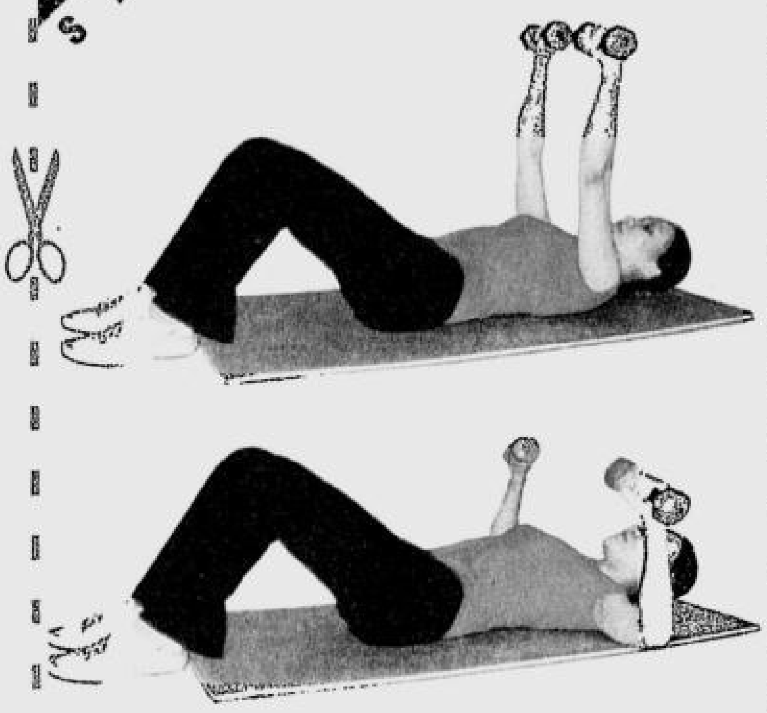
Just one cup of pineapple contains 73 percent of your daily requirement for manganese, a bone builder in young people and a bone strengthener in older people.

Fluoride, flavonoids, and phytoestrogens in green tea help to preserve bone density. One study indicates it is not the amount of tea but how long you have been drinking it that matters.

Sources:
National Osteoporosis Foundation; The World's Healthiest Foods
Prevention Magazine
Next week: The Bone Robbers
Visit www.tinajuanfitness.info

CLIP & SAVE

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



Chest press

STRENGTHENS AND tightens the chest, front of the shoulders, and back of the arms

Equipment:

Dumbbells, mat or gym bench

Exercise technique:

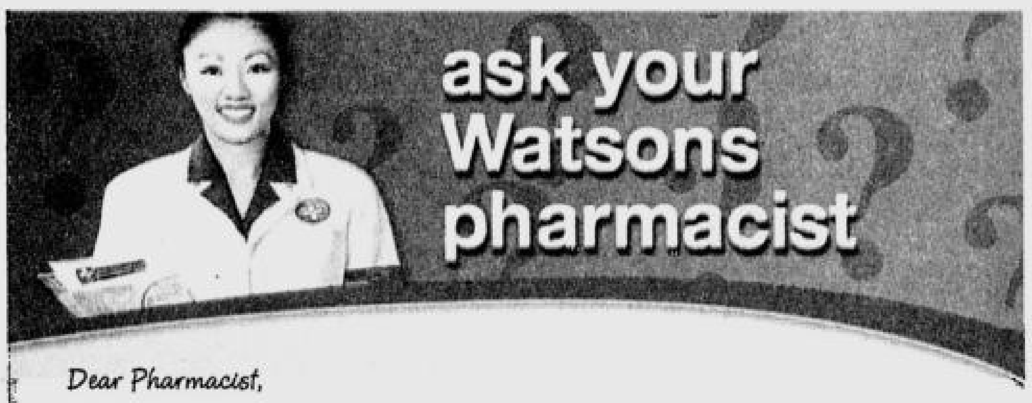
1. Lie on your back with the knees bent and a dumbbell in each hand.
2. Bring your arms towards the ceiling, keeping them directly over the shoulder joints with the palms facing the knees. This is your starting position.
3. Lower your arms by bending your elbows until you feel a mild stretch in the chest.
4. Contract the chest muscles to straighten the arms.

Performance tips:

1. Keep shoulder blades against the mat so your chest has an anchor to pull against. This prevents your upper back from rounding and your chest from becoming concave as you bring those arms in front of you.
2. When returning to starting position, squeeze the chest before you even straighten the arms.
3. Avoid snapping or jerking the elbows when you straighten the arms.
4. Inhale when you lower your arms; exhale when you straighten them.

Repetitions:

12 to 15 repetitions


ask your Watsons pharmacist

Dear Pharmacist,

I just had my baby and my husband and I decided to allow a few years before having our second child. What contraceptive would you best recommend?

New Mom

Dear New Mom,

Planning for your family is a sign of love and responsible parenthood. By spacing births at least two years apart, you give yourself time to enjoy being a wife and mom, and allow the family to recover financially, physically and emotionally, while preparing for a new baby. Here are several contraceptive options that you can choose from:

- **Oral Contraceptives**: 100% effective if taken exactly as prescribed. Aside from preventing pregnancy, it also reduces pre-menstrual syndrome and helps clarify & smoothen skin.
- **Injectables**: Most convenient, economical and long-acting, with only one injection every 3 months. A good choice for breastfeeding moms.
- **Condoms**: 98% effective in preventing pregnancy. It also protects you against STDs and HIV / AIDS.

If you feel you're ready to have kids, just stop using pills, injectables or condoms and you can get pregnant. To know more about family planning, visit us at Watsons or consult your healthcare provider about the method that is best for you.

Pharmacist

TRUST TRUST

For more information on the products of the TRUST Family Program, please call (02)6333-TFP / 633-3837
Text (0917) 823-1111 or log on to www.tfp.com.ph

pharmacy self care
watsons

Watsons Pharmacy Self-Care Program aims to raise awareness about relevant health issues, **and educate** you through **professional health information and advice**. Our friendly pharmacists **are always ready to assist you, especially when it concerns you** and your family's health.

HEAR-IT FROM OUR BARKADA

Chefs Darlo Lopez, Rosebud Benitez & Niño Logarta
CCA, Manila Alumni – 2002, 2003, and 2004
Hosts, QTV 11's "Ka-Toque: Lutong Barkada"
Chef Tristan Encarnacion
CCA, Manila Alumnus – 2001
TV chef, GMA's "Unang Hirit"

In an exclusive interview with TV chefs Rosebud, Darlo, Niño and Tristan, when asked about what CCA, Manila provided them:

Rosebud: "...the best curriculum which I needed to hone my craft..."

Darlo: "...skills and knowledge to start a catering business at age 17..."

Niño: "...discipline to achieve my goal to be a culinarian..."

Tristan: "...opportunities, directions in life, and the heart. The time of my life!"

At CCA, Manila, we'll make sure you're equipped with fresh and innovative ideas as you face the stage of life.

Pioneer. Professional. Leader. This is CCA, Manila. Conquering the Global Foodscape.

Application and enrollment is on going for the opening of classes in June and August 2007:

Culinary Arts & Technology Management (1 to 2 years)
Baking-Pastry Arts & Technology Management (1 to 2 years)

af
Alliance française de Manille

Rendez-vous au CCA, Manille!
(See You at CCA, Manila!)

This 2007, our French language subjects will now bear the seal of excellence of the world-renown French cultural institution - the Alliance Française (AFM).

The AFM has developed a special program for CCA, Manila focused on the culinary arts and hospitality industry, equipping you with the linguistic skills you need to excel in the global foodscape.

With the *Diplôme d'Etudes en Langue Française*, a diploma certifying knowledge and mastery of the French language and recognized by the French Ministry of Education, you will have an edge in obtaining continuing education and work in French-speaking countries.

CCA
Center for Culinary Arts, Manila

10 Years of Culinary Education Leadership
287 Katipunan Ave. Loyola Heights, Quezon City
Tel. 426-4840 to 41
Fax. 426-4836
Email. marketing@cca-manila.com
Website. www.cca-manila.com

SENATE President Manny Villar with Danny Vasquez and his wife, Ising Madrigal V.

BUSINESS magnate Rene Dragon with stunning Carolyn Garcia and Nona Lobregat

YOUNG entrepreneur Tito Lopez, international businessman Marcel Crespo and fiancée Celine Lopez

ESTER Anastacio, Digna Calina and Mila Jalandoni

VIVACIOUS Tereret Tambunting Liboro, Daisy Payumo and Rep. Cynthia Villar

ALBERTITO Lopez blows the candles on his birthday cake as wife Emily looks on.

RESTAURATEUR Ana Martha Moreno with her mother Manot Moreno, Daisy Payumo, Gina de Venecia and Suzie Ortigas

GILLY Rufino
de Venecia, c

SANDY Poblador

MANOLING Poblador

FASHION plate Yaying Dragon

EMILY Lopez with former C
Justice Art Panganiban

Birthday dinner is exclusive to the closest

SUGAR BARON AND FORMER ILOILO legislator **Albertito Lopez** had a fab 74th birthday dinner with his *famille* and real close pals at Intercontinental Manila's super elegant Prince Albert Rotisserie, *palanggas.*

His stylish wife **Emily Relucio**, herself a former governor of Guimaras and now ambassador designate to Italy, and her children, eligible bachelor **Tito** and soon-to-wed **Celine**, welcomed the invitees at the restaurant's main dining section, which was reserved for the celebration, dahlings.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

Hotshots in the select group were Senate President **Manuel Villar** and his wife Las Piñas Representative **Cynthia Villar**, with their brilliant children, all shakers and movers, **Paolo, Mark** and **Camille**; House Speaker **Jose de Venecia** and wife Gina; Metrobank Foundation president **Chito Sobrepeña** and wife Ana; Rep. **Charlie Cojuangco, Nona Lobregat**, Rep. **Girlie Villarosa, Gilly Rufino, Mila Jalandoni, Ester Anastacio, Digna Calina**, and Intercontinental Manila public relations director, hotshot asset **Jenny Peña.**

As always, the Intercon's renowned chefs made the dinner menu a gourmand's delight. Consisting of poached egg with burgundy wine dressing, Bouchaux mussel soup in saffron and white wine, US short plate pot au feu style with truffle cream sauce, traditional cherry tart, and a family recipe of the hotel's well-loved general manager **Christian Pirodon** of Lyon, France, and the Canelles de Bordeaux, it was absolutely superb, dahlings.

Once dinner was over, the resto's director, **Francis Felipe**, brought in two birthday cakes. As **Albertito** blew the candles on his cake, the guests sang happy birthday and lifted their champagne flutes as they wished him tons and tons of fruitful, happy, wealthy years ahead, *palanggas.*

Dazzling museum

It was an evening of color, beauty and style. The "Museum of Colour and Style" was a rare gathering of hair industry greats and the fashionably chic pack.

The leader of the "hair set," Sunsilk, *natch*, launched its newest product, which represented a breakthrough in color technology.

The dazzling affair of Sunsilk Colour Shine System held at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel featured 11 women of color, style and grace, diehard believers of hair coloring, *palanggas.*

The women colored their locks for a special exhibit that was captured on film by top lensman **Victor Consunji**. The wizards behind their beautiful tresses were **George Bantolino** of Sir George Salon, **Gio Ledesma** of David's Salon, and **Nelson Cruz** of Essensuals Tony&Guy.

Guests were welcomed to the enchanting affair by the evening's host, **Tim Yap**, together with Unilever category director for hair care **Gilbert Simpao**, Sunsilk's marketing manager **Carlo Endaya** and assistant brand manager **Chris Monteron.**

No less than renowned stylist **Douglas Lillico**, artistic director of the high-end Philip George Salon in Hong Kon worked with Hollywood stars a permodels, opened the colorf *gas.*

Unilever's tall and brilliant G real short talk about this new by Sunsilk. He said, "The Suns System is a revolutionary new and-care products specially de ored hair that will add vibran your hair."

The captivating hair show by

MAKATI Shangri-La's vice president and general manager Greg Dogan, David taipan William Go

LIVING WELL WITH DIABETES

Why people with diabetes should manage their weight

When you have diabetes, you know that losing weight is not about just looking good. It's about managing your condition.

Consider that losing even 5% to 10% of your body weight can help you control your blood glucose and reduce other risk factors.[1] Aside from that, modest weight loss in patients with type-2 diabetes has been associated with decreased insulin resistance, improved glycemic control, reduced lipidemia and lowered blood pressure.[2]

The barriers of weight management
You may well have heard of how important it is to lose weight, and may generally have an idea on its specific benefits to your health, but when it comes to actually dropping the pounds, don't you just wonder why you simply can't do so?

According to studies, dietary recommendations are more difficult for people with diabetes to adhere to than medication, and compliance is poor. [4] You can trace this to any of the following:[1, 3]

- Challenges making lifestyle changes (limited physical activity or diet fatigue)
- Feeling of failure and frustration from previous unsuccessful weight loss attempts
- Genetic or metabolic differences
- Fear of and compensation for potential hypoglycaemia
- Effect of some medication (e.g. sulfonylureas, thiazolidinediones, insulin)

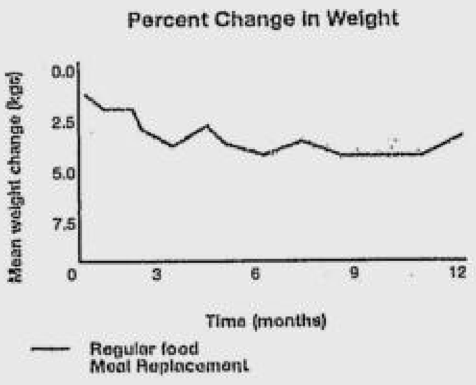
Though there are many barriers that keep you from losing weight, there are also ways to help you achieve and maintain a healthy weight. Meal replacements are one of them.

What are meal replacements
Meal replacements come as ready-to-use, portion-controlled food or often as formula products that aid in weight loss. They have defined amounts of energy and nutrient contents. Meal replacement formulas contain complete and balanced macro and micronutrients, which can minimize nutritional inadequacy despite restricted caloric intake.[15]

Quite simply, they are the food you take that helps you lose weight, without sacrificing your health.

How can meal replacements help you achieve and maintain a healthy weight
Not only are meal replacements popular tools in losing weight, they are also well proven ones.

Studies have shown that structuring meal plans with the help of meal replacements result in better compliance and makes it easier to achieve and maintain weight loss.[2, 5, 6, 7, 8]



Studies also show that:

It is a convenient solution with a controlled amount of calories
It makes for easier meal planning and requires fewer decisions
It may help prevent unintended dietary failures
It may help prevent unhealthy snacking

Another study revealed that the use of meal replacements one to two times a day to replace usual meals can result in significant weight loss, so long as meal replacement therapy is continued.[9]

A recent study by Li et al (2005) analyzing the long-term efficacy of meal replacements vs. an individualized diet plan in obese type-2 diabetes patients has demonstrated that using meal replacements is a viable strategy for weight reduction, resulting in beneficial changes in measures of glycemic control and reduction of medications.

Interestingly, in a study with obese people with different co-mordibities, when offered a choice of meal plans based on foods or meal replacements, two-thirds of patients chose to use meal replacements at least once a day[1]

All in all, meal replacements have been proven to help you lose weight in a healthy way and manage your diabetes better.

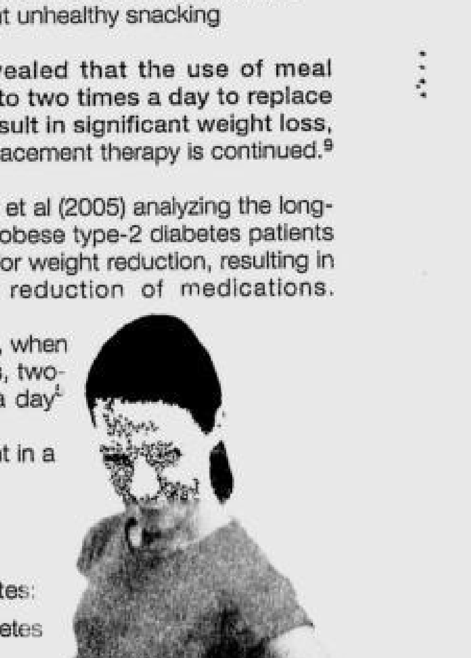
ment

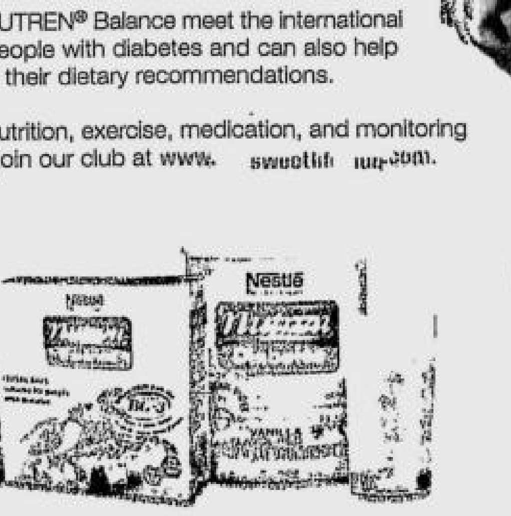
NUTREN® Diabetes offers the following benefits to people with diabetes:

Its complete and balanced composition is tailored for people with diabetes
It is specially formulated for lower glycemic response
It is high in fiber which promotes improved glycemic control and makes you feel full longer

NUTREN® Diabetes and NUTREN® Balance meet the international nutritional guidelines for people with diabetes and can also help your patients comply with their dietary recommendations.

For more information on nutrition, exercise, medication, and monitoring for people with diabetes, join our club at www. sweetlif [illegible] .com.





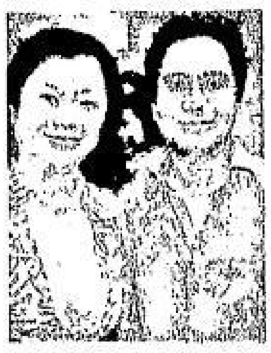
Nestlé Nutrition

---

[1] Anderson JW, et al. Importance of weight management in type 2 diabetes: review with meta-analysis of clinical studies. J Am Coll Nutr. 2003 Oct;22(5):331-9. Review.
[2] Redmon JB, et al. Two-year outcome of a combination of weight loss therapies for type 2 diabetes. Diabetes Care. 2005 Jun;28(6):1311-5.
[3] Pi-Sunyer FX. Weight loss in type 2 diabetic patients.2005 Jun;28(6):1526-7.
[4] Nelson KM, 2003; 26(Suppl1): S51–S61. 2. Nelson KM, et al. Diet and Diet and al exercise among adults with type 2 diabetes: . ndings from the third national health and nutrition examination survey (NHANES III). Diabetes Care 2002; 25: 1722–1728.
[5] Bowerman S, et al. Implementation of a primary care physician network obesity management program. Obes Res. 2001 Nov;9 Suppl 4:321S-325S.
[6] Ditschuneit HH, Flechtner-Mors M. Value of structured meals for weight management: risk factors and long-term weight maintenance. Obes Res. 2001 Nov;9 Suppl 4:284S-289S.
[7] Li Z et al. Eur J Clin Nutr 2002005;59:411-418
[8] Wing RR and Jeffery RW. Food provision as a strategy to promote weight loss. Obes Res. 2001;9:271S-275S.
[9] ADA. Diabetes Care 2004;27(Suppl 1)S36-S46
[10] Cheung L and Lam L. Meal Replacements: An Useful Adjunct for Weight Reduction. Lifestyle. 2004 Nov; Vol 9 No 11

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

with Ambassador Rubens Fedele of Italy, Speaker Joe
elebrator Albertito, and Ana and Chito Sobrepeña



DEBBIE Tan and Francis Lumen

AGNES Huibonhoa, Ching Cruz and Virgie Ramos

hief

SUNSILK assistant brand manager Chris Monteron, Helen Monteron and Del Areglado

INTERNATIONAL hair expert Douglas Lillico and Unilever's Gilbert Simpao

and dearest

Balangue and

and who has
nd countless su-
l affair, *palang-*

ilbert S. gave a
r breakthrough
lk Colour Shine
range of wash-
veloped for col-
y and shine to

the three artists

featured dazzling styles and vibrant locks, showcasing each of Sunsilk's three color variants—Dazzling Shiny Black, Radiant Light Brown and Vibrant Burgundy.

So step out of the shadows, people, and add life to your natural or colored hair with the Sunsilk Colour Shine System! They say, *palanggas*, that if you do, you'll dazzle!

Il Divo at Shang

Leave it to that gentleman for all seasons, Makati Shangri-La's hotshot vice president and popular general manager **Greg Dogan**, to give a fun welcome for the sensational Il Divo quartet, no less, *palanggas*, at the hotel's chic Red restaurant.

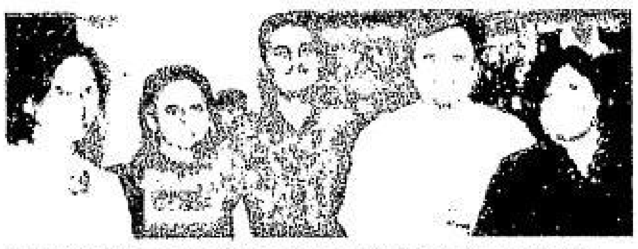
It's a known fact that Il Divo has put a fresh face on popular songs. Their exceptional voices, to-die-for good looks, cultural diversity, and romantic blend of classical and pop music has thrilled audiences around the world, dahlings.

The group was formed after a two-year search by the man who has a love-hate relationship with the tons of people auditioning for the "American Idol" television show, **Simon Cowell**.

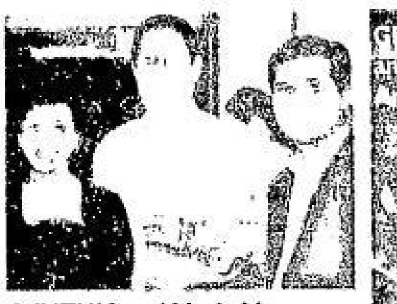
Makati Shangri-La's **Greg D.** hosted patrons of the hotel to a *tres* exclusive champagne reception before the fabulous concert that sent our town's well-heeled society on its feet, giving the group a five-minute standing ovation while shouting for more, more, more *après* the concert, dahlings.

ANDY and Tisha Bautista

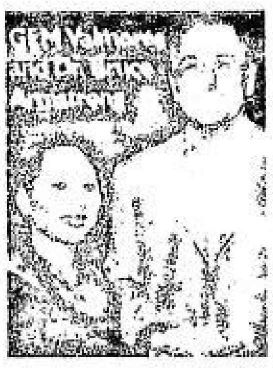
VICKY Zubiri and Anton San Diego



ARLENE Balangue, Mina and Sanjiv Vorha, Jun and Pat Pacheco



CYNTHIA and Mario Mamon, and Jed Arricivita



INSIDE OUT
Cory Quirino

It is not diet but choice

UNLESS YOU HAVE BEEN CUT OFF from the rest of the world, you must know that what you eat has a dramatic effect on your health.

Here are some bits of information on food that can help you look and feel better.

Sweet highs

No need to deny those comfort food cravings. Once in a while, it is okay to have a Hershey bar or two or three.

However, making it a daily habit and exceeding the limits can lead to diabetes or aggravate your weight problem, if you have any.

In short, do not make sugar your medication when you are depressed. Why is sugar, especially chocolate, a comfort food? Because it is believed that carbohydrates, including sweets, raise the brain's levels of serotonin, a hormone-like chemical that calms the nerves resulting in a feel-good state.

While the good feeling truly happens, it can disappear just as quickly. Unlike exercise that leads to a sustained "endorphin high," a sugar-induced high is brief, leaving just as quickly as it arrives.

Worse, endorphin levels drop even lower than the initial level when you had your sweets.

Sustaining the high

There is a smart way to feel better, longer. Try to cut back on the sweets. In fact, if you can stop the sugar, you will feel lighter.

Here's how:

Eat complex carbohydrates like whole grain breads/cereals/jams/sweet potato/brown rice/oatmeal, whole wheat muffins/pasta. They stimulate not only production of serotonin but also of tryptophan, an amino acid that can help ease depression.

Fatigue fighter

Protein can help improve your mood and trim the waistline. Try a turkey sandwich with nonfat milk. The amino acid tyrosine in poultry and milk increases the human body's ability to use norepinephrine, a mood-raising brain chemical.

The 'B' army

Beating the blues is as easy as A, B, C. While these are all essential vitamins, it is B complex that can alter your mood. According to researchers, people who do not take B12 are most likely to suffer from depression, memory loss, irritability, etc.

A deficiency in folic acid, a member of the B complex family, will cause mood swings and an imbalance in emotional state.

So, eat your broccoli, spinach, oranges, lemons, grapefruit, beans and whole-grain breads and cereals. With every bite you take, you get a mood-booster that can sustain you all day.

Best brain

Put your best-brain forward by getting your brain-boosting regimen from chicken, eggs, fish, poultry, lean pork, dairy products, peanuts, walnuts, whole-grain foods. Being vitamin B rich, these vitamins fight homocysteine, a condition that, if left unchecked, causes inflammation in the body.

Establish a routine

You may think it is brave to skip a meal because you are so motivated to lose weight. But, unless you fast properly, foregoing food may not be such a good idea.

Skipping meals causes mood swings due to a drop in blood sugar levels. Thus, a bad mood becomes worse on an empty stomach. Depriving yourself of food is not the best way to diet. Instead, eat five small meals a day. Or, if you are used to three square meals, then load up on vegetables before the main course.

Dump the diet

Being too focused on dieting can lead to stress and mental fatigue. Constantly obsessing about your diet can depress you. Instead, consider your diet as a way of life.

Erase the word "diet" and replace it with the word "choice." It then becomes a paradigm shift. When you see a bowl of ice cream, do not think diet. Ask yourself, "Is this my choice or not?" Learning control is an internal matter, not an external one. And it begins with the mind.

A beauty regimen

Citrus caress

Combine orange and lemon juice to make ¼ cup. Mix ¼ cup of water and three tablespoons virgin coco oil (optional), ½ cup of sugar. Use as a full-body scrub from toe to neck. Apply only on the face if diluted with water.

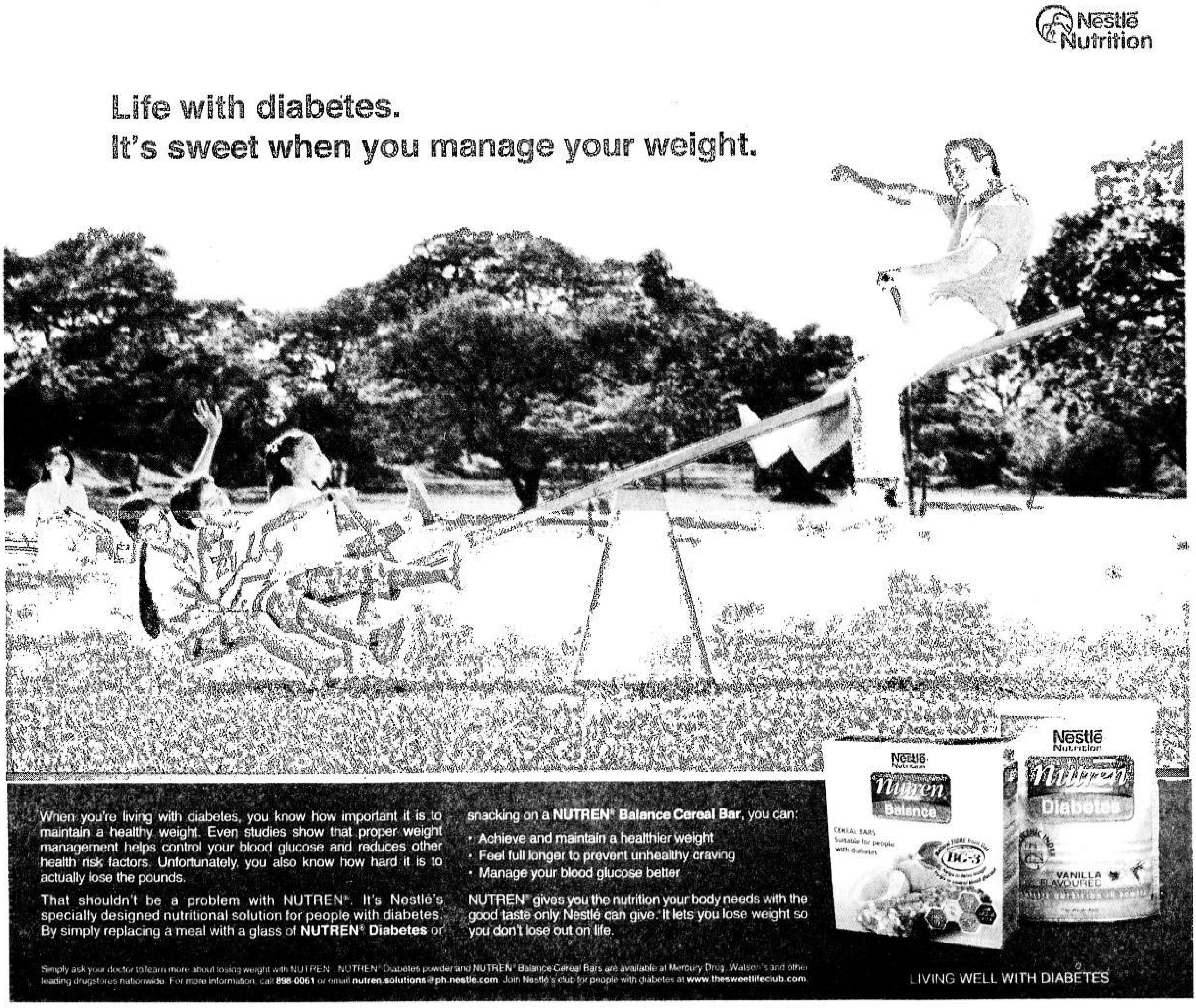
Do good practice

You know when you are doing good because it feels like the right thing to do. When body, mind and spirit are in the right place, you know that you have done right for yourself.

Affirmation

"I feel good, I look good."

Love and light!



Nestlé Nutrition

Life with diabetes.
It's sweet when you manage your weight.

When you're living with diabetes, you know how important it is to maintain a healthy weight. Even studies show that proper weight management helps control your blood glucose and reduces other health risk factors. Unfortunately, you also know how hard it is to actually lose the pounds.

That shouldn't be a problem with NUTREN®. It's Nestlé's specially designed nutritional solution for people with diabetes. By simply replacing a meal with a glass of **NUTREN® Diabetes** or snacking on a **NUTREN® Balance Cereal Bar**, you can:

- Achieve and maintain a healthier weight
- Feel full longer to prevent unhealthy craving
- Manage your blood glucose better

NUTREN® gives you the nutrition your body needs with the good taste only Nestlé can give. It lets you lose weight so you don't lose out on life.

Simply ask your doctor to learn more about losing weight with NUTREN. NUTREN® Diabetes powder and NUTREN® Balance Cereal Bars are available at Mercury Drug, Watson's and other leading drugstores nationwide. For more information, call **898-0061** or email **nutren.solutions@ph.nestle.com**. Join Nestlé's club for people with diabetes at **www.thesweetlifeclub.com**.

LIVING WELL WITH DIABETES

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The liver destroyer

Though considered '100 times more infectious than the AIDS virus,' people do not know much about hepatitis

By Linda B. Bolido

LITTLE KNOWN AND OFTEN MISunderstood, hepatitis B has become a serious health problem.

In the Philippines, health authorities estimate that some 58 million Filipinos—that is more than half of the 80 million plus population—are exposed to the hepatitis B virus.

The Department of Health (DOH) says about seven million are chronically infected and some 30 percent of these people will develop liver disease by the age of 30 to 50 years old.

Despite its high prevalence, hepatitis B, formerly known as serum hepatitis, is a poorly understood disease.

What many people do not know is that there are different types of hepatitis, a disease defined by the Bantam Medical Dictionary as "inflammation of the liver and caused by viruses, toxic substances or immunological abnormalities".

Short-term infection

And what many people do know is hepatitis A—acute but short-term viral infection. This is the kind of hepatitis that is easily transmitted by food or drink contaminated by a carrier or a person with the infection.

Like typhoid fever and diarrhea, among others, it usually occurs when hygiene and sanitation are poor.

While hepatitis B, which increases a person's risk of developing cirrhosis (scarring of the liver) or even cancer, and C and D, for that matter, are also infectious, they are not as easily transferred from one person to another like A.

And unlike A, these other hepatitis types are chronic, that is, the infection is prolonged, sometimes even lifelong.

Hepatitis B, the more common form of the chronic type of the disease, actually has a lot in common with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in terms of means of transmission.

DR. LYNDON Lee Suy, DOH's program manager for Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases

DR. JEAN-MARC OLIVÉ, World Health Organization's representative in the Philippines

During a recent forum of medical experts to launch the 3rd Hepatitis B Summit on Feb. 22 at the Renaissance (formerly New World) Makati City Hotel, it was pointed out that the disease was "100 times more infectious than the AIDS virus."

Hepatitis B is transmitted via blood and other body fluids. Unprotected sex, contaminated blood in syringes and tattooing needles are ways through which the disease-causing virus can be transmitted.

Modes of transmission

Specifically, infection can occur through:

* Contact with blood in healthcare settings putting physicians, nurses, dentists, and other healthcare personnel at risk

* Unsafe sex with an infected person

* Blood transfusions

* Sharing needles during drug use

* Receiving a tattoo or acupuncture with contaminated instruments

* Birth—an infected mother can transmit the virus to the baby during delivery or shortly thereafter.

Most people who become infected get rid of the virus within six months. This short infection is called an "acute" case of hepatitis B.

About 10 percent of people with hepatitis B virus develop a chronic, life-long infection. Medical web sites say the "risk of becoming chronically infected depends on the person's age at the time of infection.

More than 90 percent of newborns, about 50 percent of children, and less than 5 percent of adults with hepatitis B develop chronic hepatitis."

Experts also say most damage from the virus is caused by the body's response to the infection.

It is the potential of the disease to cause even more serious damage to the liver, like cirrhosis and cancer, coupled with its high prevalence, that makes it a serious concern.

Most people later diagnosed with hepatitis B did not even know they had the disease because they did not feel any symptoms.

Thus, medical attention was often sought late when treatment was more difficult, sometimes even futile.

And many people still do not know that a vaccine has been available for several years now to prevent the infection from causing more serious damage.

In fact, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) is reportedly now planning to include starting this year hepatitis vaccination in services provided to members.

The importance of vaccination in prevention will be one of the topics the Feb. 22 summit will discuss. Another critical issue to be addressed is the employability of people positive for hepatitis B infection.

The summit, a collaborative effort of several medical specialty organizations, is supported by GlaxoSmithKline and Medical Observer and has the participation of DOH and World Health Organization.

INNER AWARENESS
Jaime Licauco

My seven spirit guides

Part 1

HOW I CAME TO KNOW MY spirit guides is a long story. But before I relate it here, let us first understand and define the words we are using.

What, in the first place, are spirit guides? How do they differ from angels, or are they the same?

The way I understand it, an angel is a pure spirit that has never been human. According to Christian teaching, there are several types and hierarchies of angels and they are called by different names.

When a person is born, a guardian angel is supposed to be assigned by God to him or her till death. The job of a guardian angel is to help his ward make the right moral decisions and to protect him from harm. But the angel cannot interfere with man's will and karma.

Mutual agreement

A spirit guide, on the other hand, may have been human before. And it is by mutual agreement that a spirit becomes a guide to a particular person.

The person may have more than one spirit guide depending on his/her responsibilities in society. Spirit guides may change depending on the growth or change in the person's consciousness or need.

On the other hand, a guardian angel remains the same throughout a person's life on earth.

In the '70s, I knew nothing about spirit guides. All I knew was what the Catholic Church taught about guardian angels. There was nothing about "spirit guides."

But in the mid-'70s, I joined a seminar of the Inner Peace Movement conducted by two visiting American teachers, Nancy Ziebert and Betina Loman, who were both clairvoyants.

One of the objectives of the seminar was to introduce participants to their "spirit guides" or angels. They made no distinction between these terms.

According to Betina, I have seven spirit guides, four females and three males. Four of my spirit guides, she said, were with me all the time. The other three were on call when needed.

Touched by spirits

Three of the female guides touch different parts of my body. One touches me on the head, another on the left leg, and another on my right side. But one male guide touches my right hip. Why those parts were touched by them was never explained to me.

When I protested to Betina that spirits had no sex, she explained that sex differentiation in my guides referred to their dominant energy or vibration in the spirit world and not really to sex as we knew it.

She said we all had at least one spirit guide but those with more responsibilities in society might have more than one guide.

Betina taught us a simple method of contacting our spirit guides utilizing our body like a pendulum while standing relaxed and asking ourselves questions mentally.

Our body would then move in either a "yes" or "no" direction just like a pendulum. I was not really very convinced of this method and so I never used it. Perhaps I should have.

Anyway, I was intrigued by the number seven. Why seven spirit guides? Why not ten or five or any other number? Is it because I was born on the seventh month and on a day which is a multiple of seven, July 25?

But I am not really an ardent believer of numerology, nor of astrology, although these subjects fascinate me.

Note: For inquiries on books, paranormal services and seminars on Inner Mind Development, ESP and Intuition Development, and Soulmates, Karma & Reincarnation conducted by this writer, call 8107245, 8926806, or fax 8159890. E-mail innerawareness_2005@yahoo.com.

MEDICard, The Healthcare I Deserve!

Take Charge Doc!

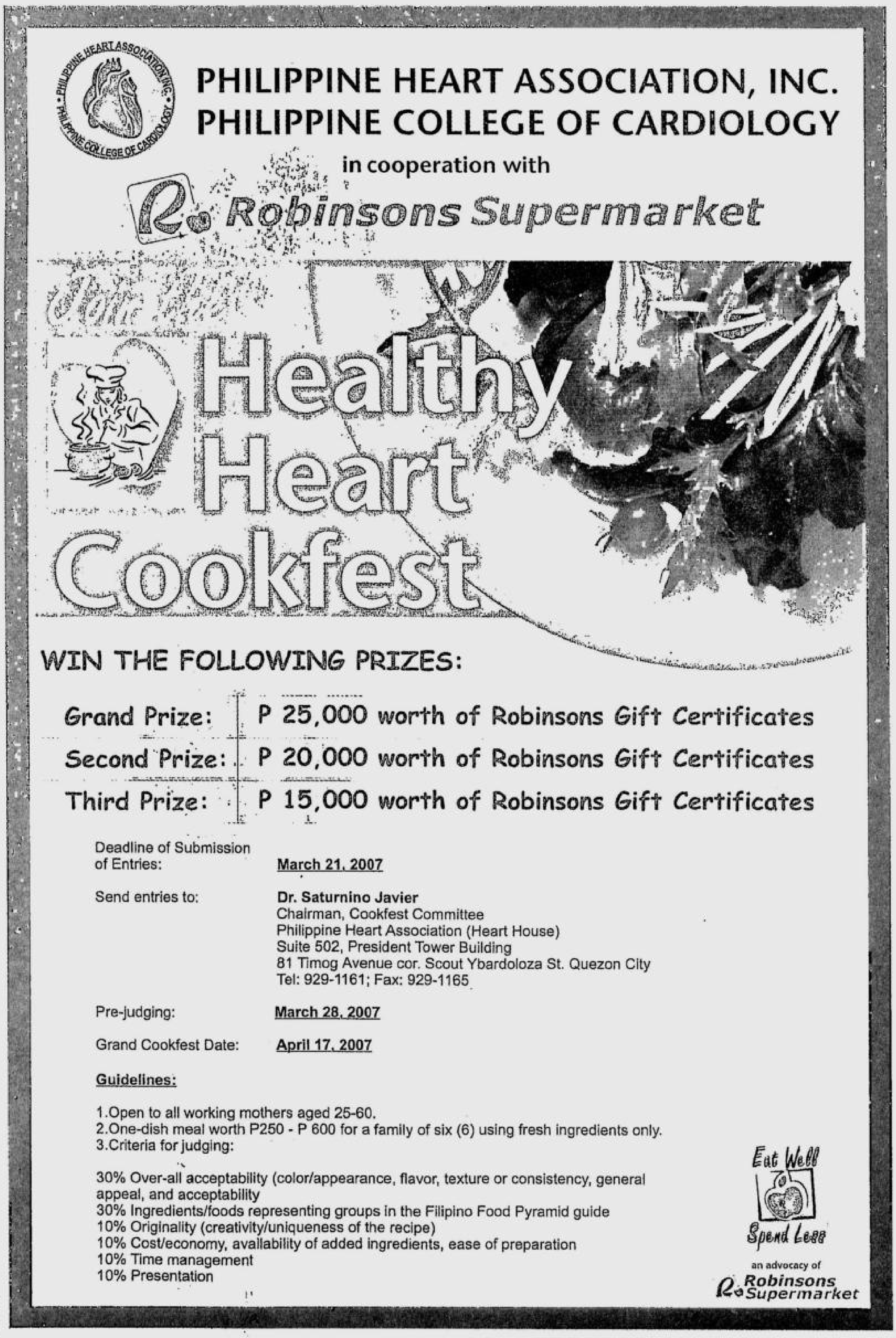
What is Leprosy?

Leprosy or Hansen's disease is an infectious disease involving largely the skin, upper respiratory system, eyes, testes, and peripheral nerves. The most common mode of transmission is human to human through nasal droplet infection. Skin to skin contact is not likely the general route as the bacteria is not found in the intact superficial layers of the skin. However, trauma, exfoliated deep skin lesions, direct skin inoculation through infected tattoo needles, and constant contact with infected soil are documented modes of transmission. The time from entry of bacteria to the body and the development of physical signs may take a minimum of 2-3 years. Leprosy would either be tuberculoid or lepromatous. Manifestations would include normal or pale thickened skin or skin nodules with minimal to complete sensory loss, loss of eyebrows, eyelashes , and body hair, on and off nasal congestion and bleeding which may lead to collapse of the cartilage of the nose or "saddle nose" deformity. Skin biopsy would aid in the diagnosis. Treatment will include immunotherapy and antibiotics like dapsone, clofazimine, and rifampin for a duration of 6 months to over a year. Prophylaxis using dapsone is not generally recommended and present vaccines have conflicting efficacies.

Dr. Ma. Cecilia De los Reyes provides us with this week's discussion on Leprosy. Dra. Cecil, a medicine graduate of University of Sto. Tomas, took her residency training for Internal Medicine in University of the Philippines and later had her subspecialization in Microbiology and Infectious Diseases at the same institution. She is a fellow of the Philippine College of Philippine College of Physicians and a member of the Philippine Society of Microbiology and Infectious Disease, University of the Philippines Society of Infectious Diseases and Las Pinas Medical Society. Dra. Cecil is married to Mr. Rommel De Los Reyes and is blessed with three children. MEDICard members may avail for her consultations at the University of Perpetual Help Medical Center-Las Piñas every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 10-12am and at Our Lady of Pillar Medical Center every Monday, Wednesday and Friday 2-5pm and every Tuesday and Thursday 1-3pm.

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

Nicky



PHILIPPINE HEART ASSOCIATION, INC.
PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY
in cooperation with
Robinsons Supermarket

Healthy Heart Cookfest

WIN THE FOLLOWING PRIZES:

Grand Prize: P 25,000 worth of Robinsons Gift Certificates
Second Prize: P 20,000 worth of Robinsons Gift Certificates
Third Prize: P 15,000 worth of Robinsons Gift Certificates

Deadline of Submission of Entries: March 21, 2007

Send entries to:
Dr. Saturnino Javier
Chairman, Cookfest Committee
Philippine Heart Association (Heart House)
Suite 502, President Tower Building
81 Timog Avenue cor. Scout Ybardoloza St. Quezon City
Tel: 929-1161; Fax: 929-1165

Pre-judging: March 28, 2007

Grand Cookfest Date: April 17, 2007

Guidelines:

1.Open to all working mothers aged 25-60.
2.One-dish meal worth P250 - P 600 for a family of six (6) using fresh ingredients only.
3.Criteria for judging:

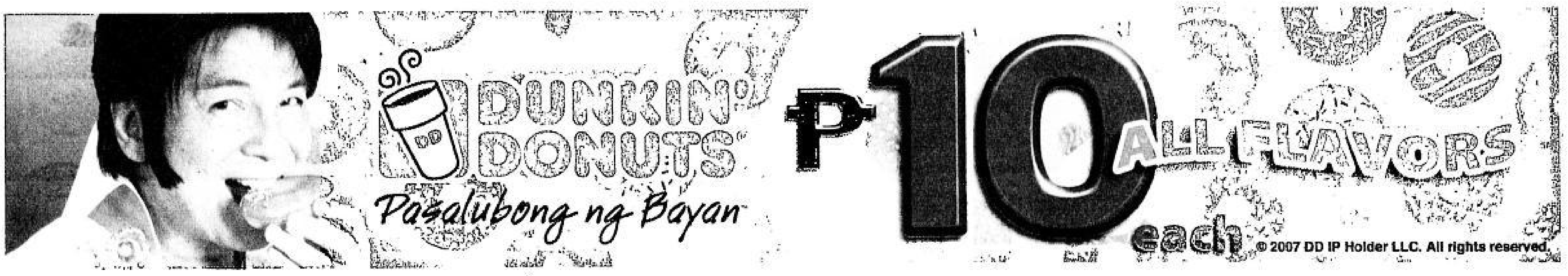
30% Over-all acceptability (color/appearance, flavor, texture or consistency, general appeal, and acceptability
30% Ingredients/foods representing groups in the Filipino Food Pyramid guide
10% Originality (creativity/uniqueness of the recipe)
10% Cost/economy, availability of added ingredients, ease of preparation
10% Time management
10% Presentation

Eat Well Spend Less
an advocacy of Robinsons Supermarket

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) **or email us at** pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph **Website:** www.inquirer.net/entertainment



© 2007 DD IP Holder LLC. All rights reserved.

Philippi ternational
Ja Arts
F val
Malls

THE GROUP Jaro performs at the opening of the Philippine International Jazz Festival on Thursday in Glorietta. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Jazz superstars play for RP

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

THERE'S A WHOLE LOTTA shakin' at the malls.

It began Thursday at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati, launching pad of the 2nd Philippine International Jazz & Arts Festival, a 10-day musical feast featuring some of the most interesting and legendary musicians here and abroad.

"We want to bring jazz to the people," said Zeneida Celdran, festival director, herself a budding club singer. "Jazz is for everyone."

"It's the foundation, the granddaddy of all kinds of music we hear today," declared Janice Harrington, 64, one of the guest artists who performed at the Glorietta launch. Describing herself as a "jazz, blues and gospel singer," Harrington, an Afro-American based in Germany, is resentful that today's youth rarely get a chance to listen to jazz and the blues, which she considers to be the authentic music that captures natural feelings and emotions."

Radio music programmers were to blame for this, said Harrington. "Most of the music on radio is synthetic."

Primal beat

The point was made as soon as the opening program started. Percussionist Bo Razon led his teenaged music students—dubbed Escola de Samba de Manila—in sounding off the call to soak in the primal beat of drums.

Other young Filipino bands—like Balooze, Albert Albert and Michael Young & Possibilities—played original compositions. Most of them displayed a fine grasp of both the fundamental and improvisational dynamics of jazz.

The Glorietta crowd arrived in batches. Some stopped to check out the ruckus; others lingered.

When Harrington took the stage, the energy was infectious. Backed by guitarist Edgar Avenir and drummer Jun Viray, she summoned the crowd to groove on a bouncy blues number with improvised lyrics: "A-one and a-two/A-you know what to do…Manila, watch out/Here we come…"

ELDAR DJANGIROV

JANICE HARRINGTON

DIANE SCHURR

The mall shows, ongoing till Thursday, are open to the public. Some of the interesting acts on the bill are Wahijuara, Up Dharma Down and Radioactive Sago Project, starting 4 p.m. today at Market! Market; Rica Arambulo, Brass Munkeys Color It Red and Pinikpikan starting 5 p.m. Feb. 21 at Eastwood City; and Nyko Maca and a surprise guest starting 8 p.m., Thursday in Greenbelt.

Two grand concerts—not free but well worth the admission ticket price—headline four of the most respected names in international jazz.

Six-octave voice

Performing on Friday at the Coconut Palace, CCP Complex, are Flora Purim, dubbed "the world's reigning electroethnic jazz queen," and Airto Moreira, "world's percussion king."

Purim, a Brazilian who moved to the US in 1967 to pursue her music, is known for her extraordinary six-octave voice. For many years voted as one of the Top 5 Jazz Singers in Downbeat Magazine, Purim has collaborated with such jazz legends as Gil Evans, Stan Getz, Chick Corea and Dizzy Gillespie. Also a master of the piano and guitar, Purim is regarded as one of the pioneers in jazz fusion. She recorded 30 albums with Moreira, another Brazilian, now her husband.

Moreira is a legend in his own right. Playing with Joe Zawinul led to a recommendation to join Miles Davis in the landmark album "Bitches Brew." Moreira impressed Davis so much, he became part of an all-star group composed of Wayne Shorter, Dave Holland, Jack De Johnette, Chick Corea and later, John McLaughlin and Keith Jarrett. Moreira was an original member of Weather Report. His reputation was such, that Downbeat was said to have added the percussion category in its readers' and critics' polls. Moreira went on to win it 20 times from 1973.

Performing on Feb. 24 at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza also at the CCP Complex are Diane Schurr, "world's premier jazz diva," and Eldar Djangirov, "world's new prince of jazz piano."

Grammy winner

Schurr has won the Grammy twice as Best Jazz Vocalist. Her depth and staying power is said to be reminiscent of Ella Fitzgerald and Sarah Vaughan. She credits Dinah Washington as an influence, and was discovered by Dizzy Gillespie. Schurr, who happens to be blind, has collaborated with a wide variety of music greats like Maynard Ferguson, B.B. King and Stan Getz, who became her mentor.

Djangirov is a native of Kyrgystan who tried his luck in the US in 1998. His claim to fame lies in the well-received album "Eldan Live at the Blue Note," in which he jammed with jazz trumpeters Chris Botti and Roy Hargrove. Djangirov's piano skills are often compared with Art Tatum and Oscar Peterson.

These are staggering descriptions, but, as they say, "It don't mean a thing if you don't get into the swing."

Log on to pijazzfest.com for a full listing of concert dates and performers.

CSIs become targets in Season 7

DID YOU KNOW…

CATHERINE (Marg Helgenberger) is raped. Lab man turned field investigator Greg (Eric Szmanda) is pounced on by hooded criminals.

A serial killer leaves in his wake miniature models of crime scenes—in meticulous detail.

Gil Grissom (William L Petersen) and Sara Sidle (Jorja Fox) are unable to keep their emotions in check, and the whole crime lab watches. Warrick (Gary Dourdan) almost stumbles upon them when he shouldn't.

These are some of the scenarios in store for local devotees of "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation," as Season 7 starts tomorrow, 10 p.m. on AXN.

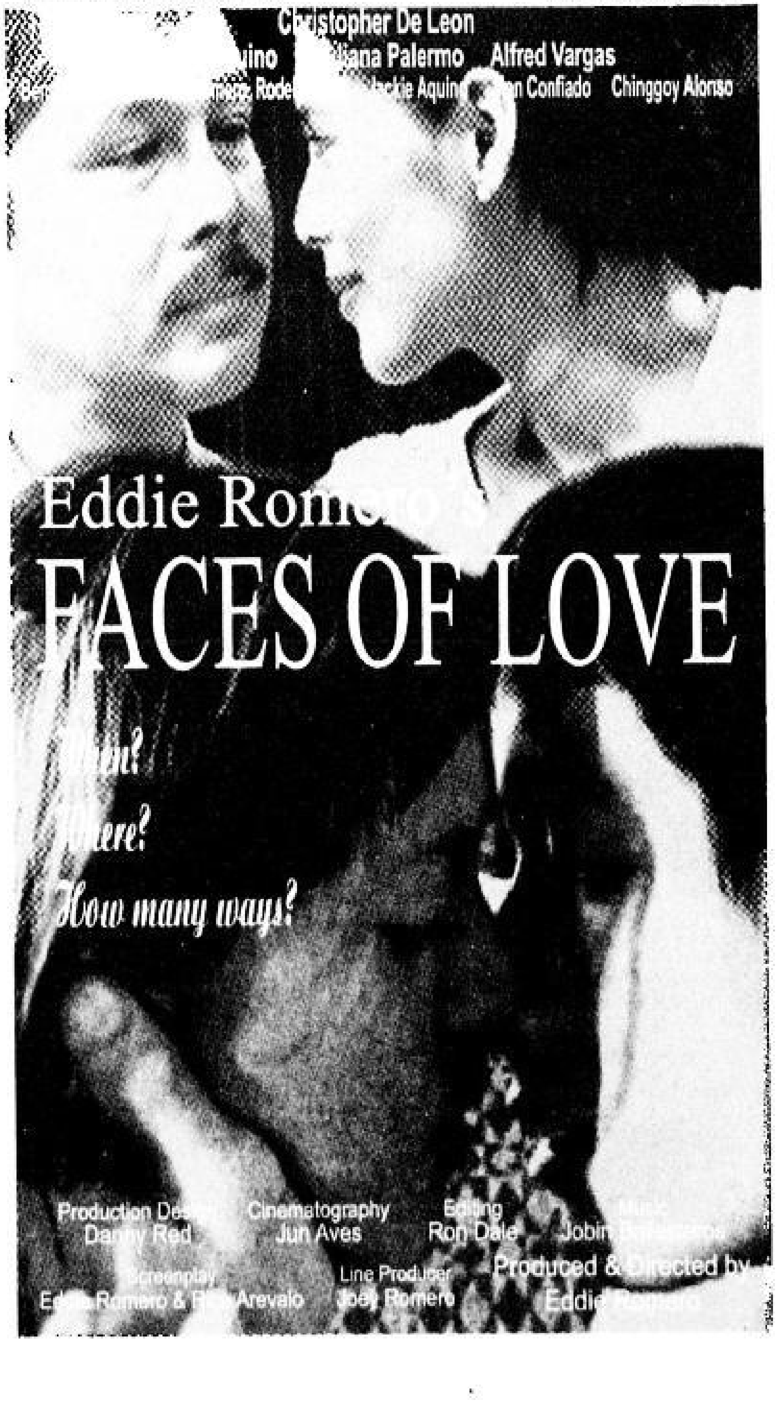
Liev Schreiber makes a debut appearance on the series as investigator Michael Keppler. Also scheduled for guestings are singer John Mayer, Britney Spears' ex, Kevin Federline, and Roger Daltrey of The Who, the band that sang the program's theme song.

Weigh Less Center
MENDÉZ MEDICAL GROUP
Body & Face

MENDÉZ MEDICAL GROUP together with PLDT HOME REWARDS Instant
giving away
50% off on Diamond Peel and facial cleaning. Open to all PLDT subscribers!
Simply present coupon attached to your monthly billing!

SERVICES OFFERED: Weight Loss; Diamond Peel; Mesotherapy; Filler; Bololinium Toxin; TENLIFT; LIPOJET; Placenta Live Cell Therapy; Skin Whitening; Facial; Spa; Salon & Nail; Plastic Surgery Services
Rocus 373 3365 to 66 • SM Megamall 635 2577 • Market Market 886 7588
SM Fairview 937 7453 • Farmers 995 0983 Metropoint Pasay 832 5527
SM SanLazaro 7417792 • Starmall Shaw 726 0877 • Glorietta 2 8941741
Robinsons Metroeast 681 4712 • Waltermart Makati 844 8615
• SM Valenzuela 293 1527
Now OPEN! Citywalk 1 EastWood
Tel # 9128793

OPENS FEB.21 PG 13 MTRCB



SM CINEMA
SHARE A MOVIE WITH A LOVED ONE

movietime SHOWTIME

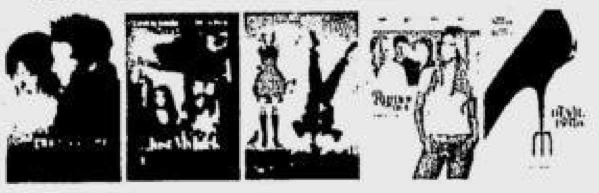
SM DIAL-A-MOVIE 833-9999*

Your life as a movie

BIG MOVIES • BIG STARS • BIG SHOWS • BIG EVENTS

Let's fall in love more&more

Watch a marathon of these romantic movies..



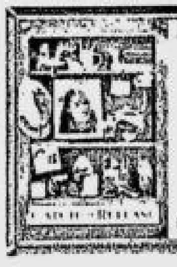
Treat your loved one to movies and more at SM Cinema's Lovefest

On February 19 and 20 at selected SM Cinema

SM CINEMA

MTRCB Rating: R 13

Distributed by Warner Bros. Picture and 20th Century Fox Films



CATCH AND RELEASE

Catch the movie on the following dates at these SM Cinemas:

February 14 to 20 at North EDSA
February 21 to 27 at SM Megamall
February 28 to March 6 at Mall of Asia
March 7 to 13 at Manila

Distributed by Columbia Pictures

MTRCB Rating: PG-13

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
SAN MIGUEL Coca-Cola IMAX THEATRE
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
1:00PM 3:30PM 6:00PM 8:30PM
Matinee Fee- P200 Primetime Fee- P250
T-REX IN 3D
11:45PM
Admission Fee- P200
1 MUSIC AND LYRICS
2 GHOST RIDER/ CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
3 THE MESSENGER
4 THE FOUNTAIN
5 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
6 THE PROMISE/ THE HOLIDAY
PREMIERE CINEMA
THE PROMISE
CENTERSTAGE
GHOST RIDER
THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
GHOST RIDER
CINEMA 2
MUSIC AND LYRICS
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 GHOST RIDER
2 CATCH AND RELEASE
3 THE FOUNTAIN
4 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
5 THE HOLIDAY
6 MUSIC AND LYRICS
7 GHOST RIDER
8 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
9 LOVE FEST 2007
10 AGENT X44
11 THE PROMISE
12 THE PROMISE

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 THE PROMISE
2 THE MESSENGER
3 GHOST RIDER
4 GHOST RIDER
5 THE PROMISE
6 MUSIC AND LYRICS
7 THE FOUNTAIN
8 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
9 THE PROMISE
10 THE PROMISE
11 BABEL
12 THE HOLIDAY

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 THE PROMISE
2 THE CLEANER
3 GHOST RIDER
4 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
5 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
6 THE MESSENGER
7 GHOST RIDER
8 THE PROMISE
9 MUSIC AND LYRICS
10 AGENT X44
11 ROB-B-HOOD
12 CHARLOTTE'S WEB

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 GHOST RIDER
2 MUSIC AND LYRICS
3 THE PROMISE
4 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
5 THE MESSENGER
5 THE CLEANER
7 LOVE FEST 2007
8 BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
9 THE HOLIDAY
10 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE MESSENGER
3 MUSIC AND LYRICS
4 THE PROMISE
5 LOVE FEST 2007
6 GHOST RIDER

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 THE PROMISE
2 GHOST RIDER
3 MUSIC AND LYRICS
4 GHOST RIDER
5 THE FOUNTAIN
6 THE PROMISE
7 THE HOLIDAY
8 THE MESSENGER
9 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE PROMISE
3 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
4 MUSIC AND LYRICS

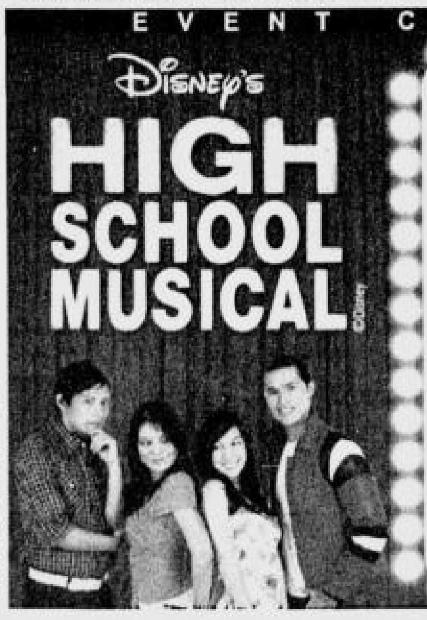
SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 GHOST RIDER
2 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
3 MUSIC AND LYRICS
4 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
5 THE MESSENGER
6 GHOST RIDER
7 THE FOUNTAIN
8 THE HOLIDAY
9 THE CLEANER
10 AGENT X44
11 THE PROMISE
12 THE PROMISE

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 THE MESSENGER
2 THE PROMISE
3 TENACIOUS D
4 GHOST RIDER

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 GHOST RIDER
2 MUSIC AND LYRICS
3 THE PROMISE
4 THE PROMISE

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 THE MESSENGER
2 GHOST RIDER
3 THE PROMISE
4 MUSIC AND LYRICS

SHOWTIME
EVENT CALENDAR



AFTER YOU'VE WATCHED, SANG AND DANCED ON TV... IT'S NOW TIME TO WATCH, SING AND DANCE ON CENTERSTAGE!

FEBRUARY 23-25, 2007
AT THE SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 4

THE OFFICIALLY LICENSED STAGE ADAPTATION BASED FROM THE DISNEY CHANNEL ORIGINAL MOVIE

FEATURING:
KAREL MARQUEZ
AS
GABRIELLA MONTEZ

Tickets available at all Ticketworld outlets (891 9999) or contact Hendri (0917 815 5794) for more information

LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 THE MESSENGER
2 ROB-B-HOOD
3 GHOST RIDER
4 THE PROMISE
5 GHOST RIDER
6 THE PROMISE
7 MUSIC AND LYRICS
8 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 THE HOLIDAY
2 GHOST RIDER
3 MUSIC AND LYRICS
4 THE MESSENGER
5 THE PROMISE
6 THE PROMISE

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE PROMISE
3 THE MESSENGER
4 THE PROMISE

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
3 THE PROMISE
4 CHARLOTTE'S WEB

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE MESSENGER
3 THE HOLIDAY
4 THE CLEANER
5 MUSIC AND LYRICS
6 THE PROMISE

SM CIY LIPA (043) 756-7925
1 CHARLOTTE'S WEB
2 THE PROMISE
3 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
4 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 THE PROMISE
2 SHAOLIN VS EVIL DEAD
3 THE RETURN
4 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE MESSENGER
3 THE HOLIDAY
4 THE PROMISE

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 THE PROMISE
2 MUSIC AND LYRICS
3 THE HOLIDAY
4 CHARLOTTE'S WEB

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811
1 LOVE FEST 2007
2 THE MESSENGER
3 THE PROMISE
4 GHOST RIDER

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 BABEL
2 GHOST RIDER
3 LOVE FEST 2007
4 THE CLEANER
5 MUSIC AND LYRICS
6 THE MESSENGER
7 THE PROMISE
8 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 BABEL
2 RESERVED
3 THE CLEANER
4 THE PROMISE
5 GHOST RIDER
6 THE HOLIDAY
7 RESERVED
8 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 GHOST RIDER
2 CHARLOTTE'S WEB
3 THE PROMISE
4 THE MESSENGER
5 BLOOD DIAMOND
6 BABEL

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 GHOST RIDE
2 CHARLOTTE'S WEB
3 THE PROMISE
4 THE MESSENGER

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

Ticket Price THX:P161 131 Indie Sine:101 632-9116

1 GHOST RIDER • THX
12:00 2:20 4:40 7.00 9:20

2 GHOST RIDER
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 indieSine: ROME and JULIET
1:30 4:20 7:10 10.00

4 National Arts Month: PELIKUSINA
Bakit may Pag-ibig Pa? -1 30PM Zamboanga -6 30PM
North Diversion Road -4 00PM Huling Balyan sa Buhi -9:30PM

5 MUSIC and LYRICS
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 THE HOLIDAY
12:00 2:30 5.00

7 THE FOUNTAIN
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

8 THE PROMISE
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

9 MUSIC and LYRICS
12.30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

10 TROIKA
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

NCCA
The National Commission for Culture and the Arts
Cinema Committee
and
Independent Filmmakers Cooperative (IFC)
present
Pelikusina
A menu of photography, film and food
February 17-20, 2007
Tanghalang Leandro Locsin, NCCA Bldg.
633 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila
IndieSine Robinsons Galleria

ERMITA

Ticket Price P110 536-7809 to 12

1 GHOST RIDER
10:10 12:35 3:00 5:25 7:45 10:00

2 THE HOLIDAY 12:00 2:35 5:10
HANNIBAL RISING 7:45 10:00

3 MUSIC and LYRICS
10:10 12 30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

4 TROIKA
10:00 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:25 10:00

5 THE PROMISE
10:10 12.30 2.50 5:10 7:25 10:00

6 THE MESSENGERS
10:10 12:00 2:00 4:00 6.00 8:00 10:00

7 THE FOUNTAIN
10 20 12.35 2:50 5.05 7 25 10:00

METRO EAST

Ticket Price P100 682-8193 - 682-8199

1 GHOST RIDER
1:05 3:45 6.25 9 05

2 MUSIC and LYRICS
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

3 THE PROMISE
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05

4 GHOST RIDER
3:45 6.25 9.05

5 THE HOLIDAY 1:00 3:50
HANNIBAL RISING 6:40 9:10

6 NIGHT at the MUSEUM 12:00 2:10 4:20
APOCALYPTO 6:30 9:00

7 THE MESSENGERS
12.50 2.50 4 50 6 50 9:00

8 TROIKA
11:10 1:40 4:10 6.40 9:10

NOVALICHES

Ticket Price P[illegible] 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE PROMISE
3 TROIKA
4 MUSIC and LYRICS
5 THE MESSENGERS

PIONEER

Ticket Price P100 687-5376

1 MUSIC and LYRICS
1:40 4:00 6:20 8:40

2 GHOST RIDER
1:25 3:45 6 05 8:25

3 THE PROMISE
1:05 3:30 5:55 8:20

4 THE FOUNTAIN
12:05 2.15 4:25 6:35 8 40

STA. ROSA

Ticket Price P75 / 80
(049) 837-0907

1 APOCALYPTO
2 GHOST RIDER
3 CHARLOTTE's WEB
4 THE PROMISE

LIPA

Ticket Price (043) 757-3864
P90 (043) 312-5870

1 THE PROMISE
2 HANNIBAL RISING
3 The CURSE of the GOLDEN FLOWER
4 NIGHT at the MUSEUM

DASMARIÑAS

Ticket Price P75 / 80
(046) 416-4332

1 THE MESSENGERS
2 GHOST RIDER
3 TROIKA
4 THE PROMISE

ANGELES

Ticket Price P 90
(045) 882-2348

1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE PROMISE
3 THE HOLIDAY
4 MUSIC and LYRICS

IMUS

Ticket Price P100 (046) 875-3838
(046) 471-8188

1 THE MESSENGERS
2 THE PROMISE
3 MUSIC and LYRICS
4 GHOST RIDER
5 TROIKA
6 THE CLEANER

STARMILLS

Ticket Price P75 / 80
(045) 875-1927

1 THE CLEANER
2 THE PROMISE
3 MUSIC and LYRICS
4 THE HOLIDAY
5 GHOST RIDER
6 THE MESSENGERS

BACOLOD

Ticket Price: P70
(034) 441-0459

1 GHOST RIDER
2 indieSine: COMPOUND
3 BABEL
4 THE PROMISE
5 THE CLEANER
6 CHARLOTTE's WEB

ILOILO

Ticket Price: P60.50/67.50/70.50
(033) 336-8070

1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE PROMISE
3 BABEL
4 NIGHT at the MUSEUM
5 THE HOLIDAY
6 THE CLEANER

Robinsons Movieworld and Independent Filmmakers Cooperative
FEBRUARY 14 - 20, 2007
IndieSine, Robinsons Movieworld Bacolod

A stunning visual achievement, COMPOUND is a contemporary thriller that deals with the complexities of love, wealth, and fear. A perfectly unexpected and well executed ending make this a film not to be missed.
- Cleveland Intl. Film Festival

"Melrose Place", as seen through the unflinching eyes of David Lynch and Mike de Leon.
- Paul Daza, Philippine Daily Inquirer

mossimo
co-sponsored by NIKON and FGI

a WILL FREDO film
COMPOUND
KILALA MO SILA

DID YOU KNOW...

ENTERTAINMENT highlights during the week of Feb. 18-24:

1953: "Bwana Devil," which heralded the "3-D" fad, opened in New York.

1967: Singer Kurt Cobain of Nirvana was born.

1972: Neil Young got a gold record for his album, "Harvest," which includes "Heart of Gold."

1974: Cher filed for separation from Sonny Bono after 10 years of marriage.

1976: Original Supremes member Florence Ballard died in Detroit at age 32. She and her children were living on welfare at the time.

1977: Fleetwood Mac released the album "Rumours." It went on to sell more than 17 million copies.

1985: Whitney Houston released her self-titled debut album.

1993: Actor Anthony Hopkins was knighted by Queen Elizabeth.

2004: The finale of "Sex and the City" aired.

'Ordinary' hero . . .

From page D5

again, the concept of the "ordinary" hero comes to the fore, and the film ends on an empathetic high.

Aside from its cogent and involving theme, "Apocalypto" comes on strong with its dramatically primordial and primal visuals, which charge the production with an elemental intensity that keeps viewers involved.

And, despite their being relative unknowns, the actors cast as natives and braves in the film come up with iconic portrayals that exude a stellar sheen of their own.

The film *is* violent, but much of it is purposeful, utilizing shock value not for its own sake, but to forcefully vivify man's inhumanity to man—and even in the name of his god!

Rachel Ann Go

"Obsession," Rachelle Ann Go's new album, is produced by Christian de Walden and contains 13 new originals by songwriters in Europe, the United States and the Philippines. It presents the now 20-year-old Rachelle Ann as a maturing artist.

On her promo tour for "Obsession," the singer will perform in SM Lipa on Feb. 24, SM Dasmariñas on Feb. 25 and SM Molino on March 3.

'The Prince & Me 2'

The direct-to-video sequel, "The Prince & Me 2: The Royal Wedding," continues the story of the 2003 fantasy romance, "The Prince & Me." Prince Edvard (Luke Mably) and Paige (Kam Heskin) are just weeks away from the big day, but have to surmount all sorts of obstacles before they can live happily ever after.

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE

We Know It's Big. We Measured.

OPENS TOMORROW

ARANETA CENTER

Gateway AliMALL FarmersPlaza

THE ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY
Gateway CINEPLEX*10
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

GHOST RIDER
12:00 / 1:55 / 2:30 / 4:25
5:00 / 6:55 / 7:30 / 9:25 / 10:00

THE PROMISE
12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40

MUSIC & LYRICS
12:15 / 2:35 / 4:55 / 7:15 / 9:50

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
1:50 / 4:30 / 7:10 / 9:50

THE FOUNTAIN
12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30

GATEWAY PLATINUM CINEMA

APOCALYPTO
12:40 / 3:40 / 6:40 / 9:40

THE HOLIDAY
12:40 / 3:30 / 6:40 / 9:30

THE MESSENGERS
1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00

MUSIC & LYRICS
2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00

AliMALL 5

1 HANNIBAL RISING
1:15 / 3:45 / 6:15 / 8:45

GHOST RIDER
12:55 / 3:25 / 5:55 / 8:25

MUSIC & LYRICS
1:05 / 3:25 / 5:45 / 8:05

4 TROIKA
12:10 / 2:15 / 4:20 / 6:25 / 8:30

THE PROMISE
12:10 R4 : 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

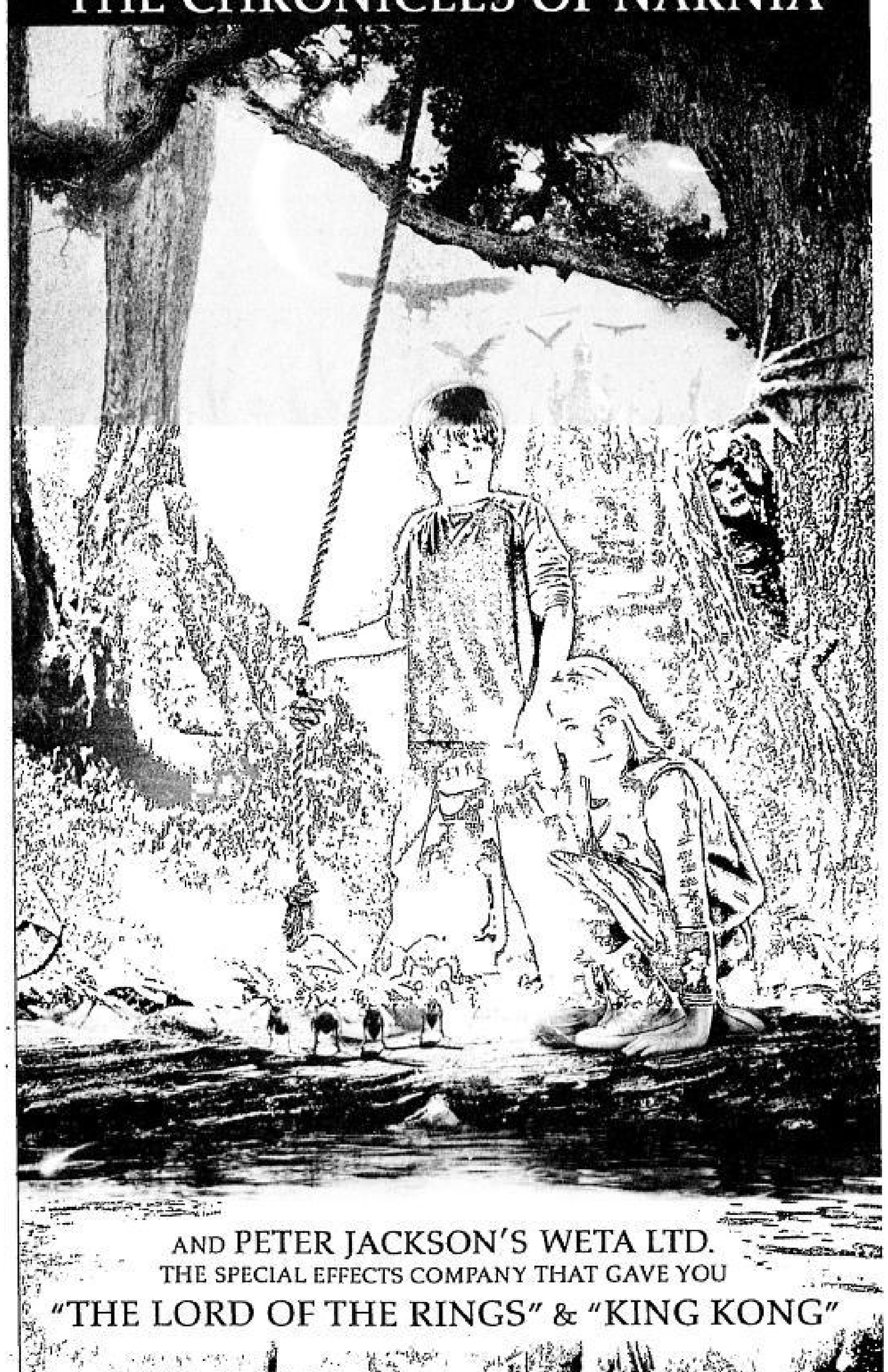
ARANETA COLISEUM

PBA CHAMPIONSHIP
Feb 21. Wednesday. 7pm - Ginebra VS San Miguel

VINA MORALES "SHOWGIRL" THE REPEAT
February 24. Saturday. 8 pm

OPENS TOMORROW

FROM WALDEN MEDIA, THE PRODUCER OF
"THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA"



AND PETER JACKSON'S WETA LTD.
THE SPECIAL EFFECTS COMPANY THAT GAVE YOU
"THE LORD OF THE RINGS" & "KING KONG"

BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 GHOST RIDER
MTRCB PG-13
1.30, 4:20, 7:10, 10:00

2 MUSIC AND LYRICS
MTRCB PG-13
2.10, 4.50, 7:25, 10:00

3 GHOST RIDER
MTRCB PG-13
1:00, 3:50, 6:40, 9:30

4 THE HOLIDAY
MTRCB PG-13
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE
THE FOUNTAIN
MTRCB PG-13
12.40, 3.00, 5.20, 7.40, 10.00

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

Catch the Cineplex Special

A Blockbuster Gift for all Season
The Shang Cineplex Gift Certificates
Treat your family and friends to a thrilling movie experience only at the shang.
Cinema Treats- for Cinemas 1, 2, 3, and 4
Premiere Rewards- for the Premiere Theatre

6th floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Call 633-7851, loc. 171/ 170 or 633-2227
for more details.

Shangri-La Plaza

GREENHILLS CINEMAS

GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1 GHOST RIDER
10:30, 1:20, 4:10
7:00, 9:50
PG-13

CINEMA 2 THE PROMISE
11:10, 1:35, 4:00
6:25, 8:50
PG-13

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
...a dinertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3 THE FOUNTAIN
11:10, 1:35, 3:50
6:05, 8:20, 10:35
PG-13

CINEMA 4 MUSIC AND LYRICS
11:15, 2:00, 4:40
7:20, 10:00
PG-13

CINEMA 5 GHOST RIDER
11:05, 2:00, 4:50
7:40, 10:30
PG-13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

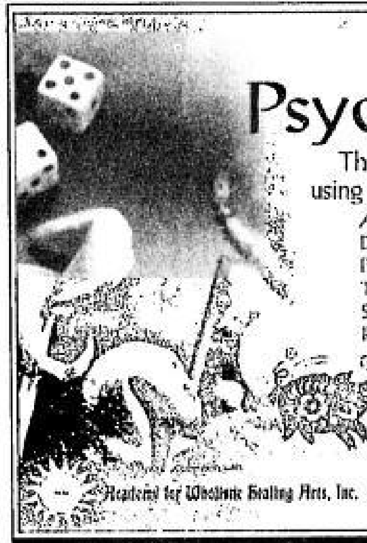
MUSIC MUSEUM

Feb. 16 & 17, 2007	Passion Y Fuego	8:00 PM
March 06, 2007	EDNA LEDESMA " DANCING W/ THE CHAMPIONS "	8:00 PM
March 16 & 23, 2007	SITTI ... IN LOVE	8:00 PM

TEATRINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00 PM
Feb. 20, 2007	DYORDS KO PO	8:00 PM
March 9, 2007	DAVE	8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635



Eastwood City

Psychics' Festival

The Country's 12 Best Psychics,
using 12 Mediums all in one Place.

Astrology
Dream Interpretation
Palmistry
Tarot Card
Saiwala
Runes Stone
Aura Vibration
Pendulum
Angel Card
Graphology
Feng Shui
Numerology

February 17 - 23, 2007
6PM onwards / Eastwood City Walk 2

Academy for Wholistic Healing Arts, Inc.

Eastwood City
Tel 687-6770 to 74 • 0917-8-EWCITY

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

To receive Eastwood City Events, Promos and Cinema schedule just text **eastwood** and send to **2948** for Globe, Smart & Sun Cellular subscribers

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 THE HOLIDAY
2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:10
PG-13

2 GHOST RIDER
2:30, 5:20, 8:10, 11:00
PG-13

3 MUSIC & LYRICS
12:55, 3:20, 5:55, 8:30, 11:00
PG-13

4 THE FOUNTAIN
1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:50
PG-13

MTRCB ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

"DARING AND MOVING FILMMAKING. A MUST-SEE FOR PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT ADVENTUROUS CINEMA."

– Peter Herbst, PREMIERE MAGAZINE

"AN EPIC MINDBLOWER. BREATHTAKING. AN EMOTIONAL POWERHOUSE."

"DARREN ARONOFSKY HAS CREATED A VISUAL MASTERPIECE THAT WILL AWE AND INSPIRE YOU."
– Mar Cave, WIZARD MAGAZINE

"THE BEST FILM OF 2006. BEAUTIFUL, GRIPPING AND UTTERLY TRANSCENDENT."
– Devin Faraci, CHUD.com

"ONE OF THE MOST VISUALLY ORIGINAL AND EMOTIONALLY COMPLEX SCIENCE-FICTION FILMS IN HISTORY."
– Steve Silberman, WIRED MAGAZINE

"A STUNNING ACHIEVEMENT! ONE OF THE MOST GORGEOUS MOVIES IN RECENT MEMORY."
– Kurt Loder, MTV.com

HUGH JACKMAN RACHEL WEISZ

THE FOUNTAIN

WHAT IF YOU COULD LIVE FOREVER?

1000 1100 1200 1500 1600 1700 1800 1900 2006

thefountainmovie.com

NOW SHOWING

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 GHOSTRIDER
2 MUSIC AND LYRICS
3 GHOST RIDER
4 THE HOLIDAY
PREMIERE
THE FOUNTAIN

CINEMA 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 GHOST RIDER
2 MUSIC & LYRICS
3 THE PROMISE
4 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER

Starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 GHOST RIDER
4 THE PROMISE
5 TROIKA

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504265, 5433994
1 THE PROMISE
2 TROIKA
3 GHOST RIDER
4 APOCALYPTO

THEATRES
CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
3 THE PROMISE

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
1 THE PROMISE
2 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
3 RESRVED
4 RESRVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
2 GHOST RIDER
3 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
4 THE FOUNTAIN
5 THE HOLIDAY
6 GHOST RIDER
7 MUSIC & LYRICS
8 APOCALYPTO / HANNIBAL RISING
9 THE MESSENGERS
10 THE PROMISE

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 THE PROMISE
2 GHOST RIDER
3 MUSIC & LYRICS
4 RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 7334228
1 APOCALYPTO
2 GHOST RIDER
3 THE PROMISE
4 MUSIC & LYRICS
5 TROIKA

THE MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 THE PROMISE
2 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
3 TROIKA
4 APOCALYPTO/NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 THE PROMISE
2 GHOST RIDER
3 TROIKA

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 GHOST RIDER
2 KAMASUTRA-3

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 MUSIC & LYRICS
2 GHOST RIDER
3 THE PROMISE
4 THE HOLIDAY

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 THE PROMISE
2 ERAGON

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 THE HOLIDAY
2 GHOST RIDER
3 MUSIC & LYRICS
4 THE FOUNTAIN

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 APOCALYPTO
2 THE PROMISE
3 GHOST RIDER
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 THE PROMISE
3 BLOOD DIAMOND

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 THE PROMISE
2 BLOOD CHOCOLATE
3 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
4 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM/DECK THE HALLS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 GHOST RIDER
2 THE PROMISE
3 APOCALYPTO

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 THE PROMISE

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 LITTLE CHILDREN
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 TROIKA
2 ROOM SERVICE
3 KISKISAN
4 APOCALYPTO

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 APOCALYPTO
2 TATLONG BARAHA
3 THE PROMISE
4 PARAISO
5 GHOST RIDER

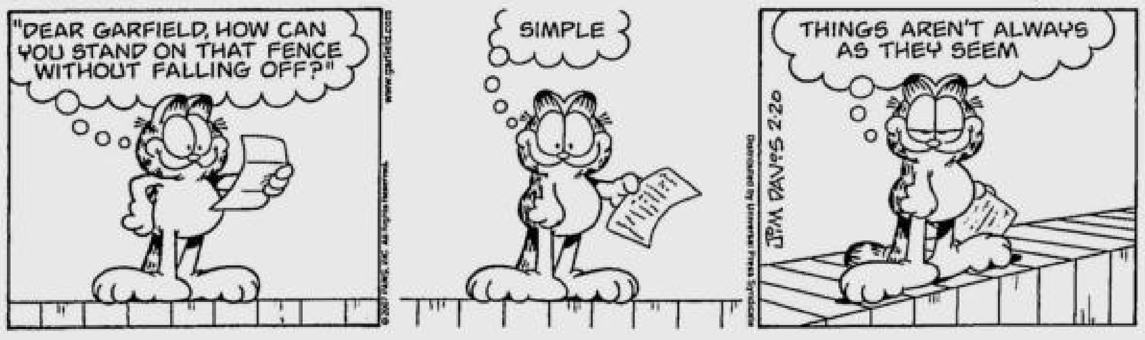
Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
3 HANNIBAL RISING
4 THE PROMISE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 LITTLE CHILDREN
2 TUKSO SI CHARITO

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

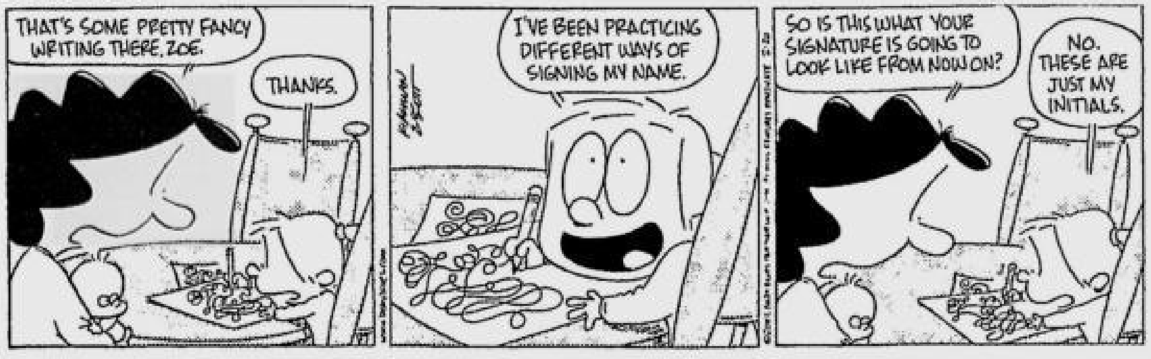
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


"DEAR GARFIELD, HOW CAN YOU STAND ON THAT FENCE WITHOUT FALLING OFF?"
SIMPLE
THINGS AREN'T ALWAYS AS THEY SEEM
JIM DAVIS 2-20

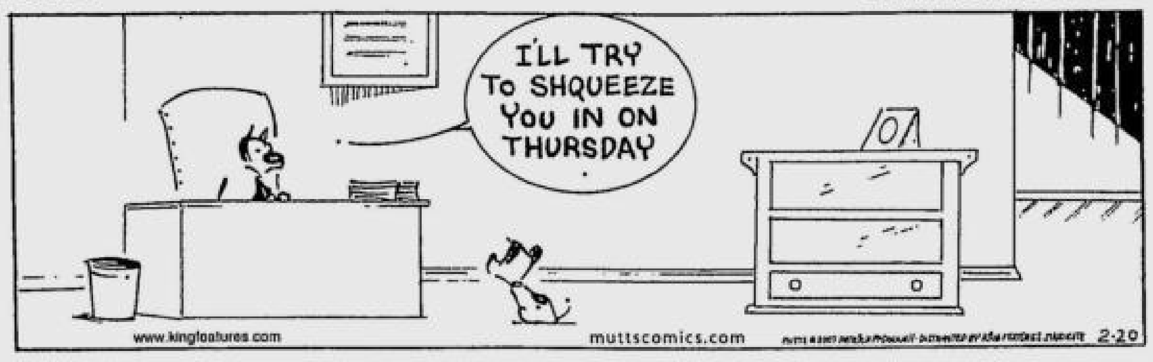
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


THAT'S SOME PRETTY FANCY WRITING THERE, ZOE.
THANKS.
I'VE BEEN PRACTICING DIFFERENT WAYS OF SIGNING MY NAME.
SO IS THIS WHAT YOUR SIGNATURE IS GOING TO LOOK LIKE FROM NOW ON?
NO. THESE ARE JUST MY INITIALS.

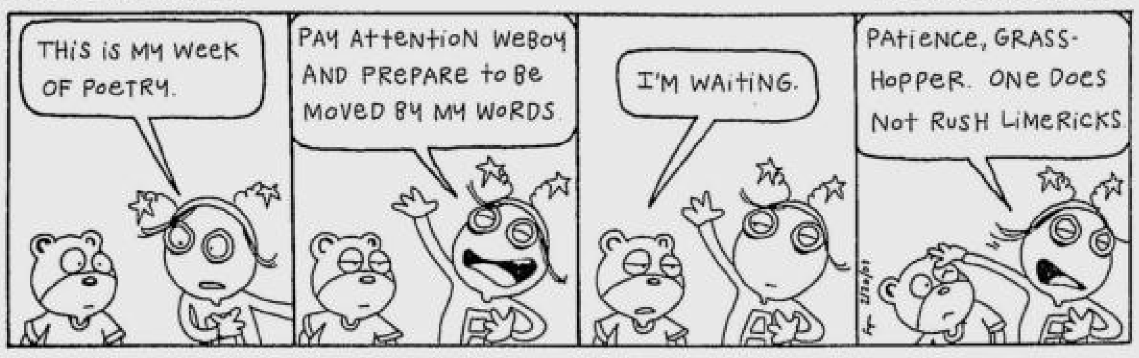
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I'LL TRY To SHQUEEZE You IN ON THURSDAY
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
2-20

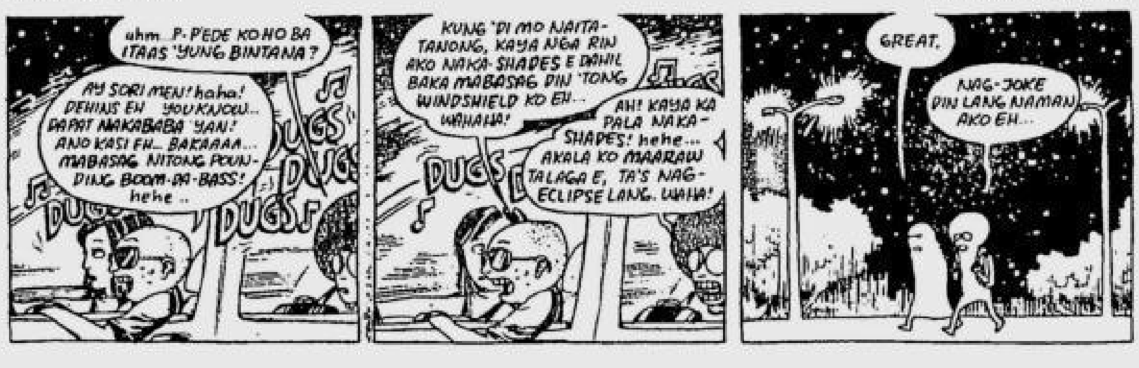
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


THis is My Week OF PoetRY.
PAY AttentioN WeBoY AND PRePARE to Be MoveD BY MY WoRDS
I'M WAitiNG.
PAtience, GRASS-HopPeR. ONe Does Not RusH LiMeRicKS

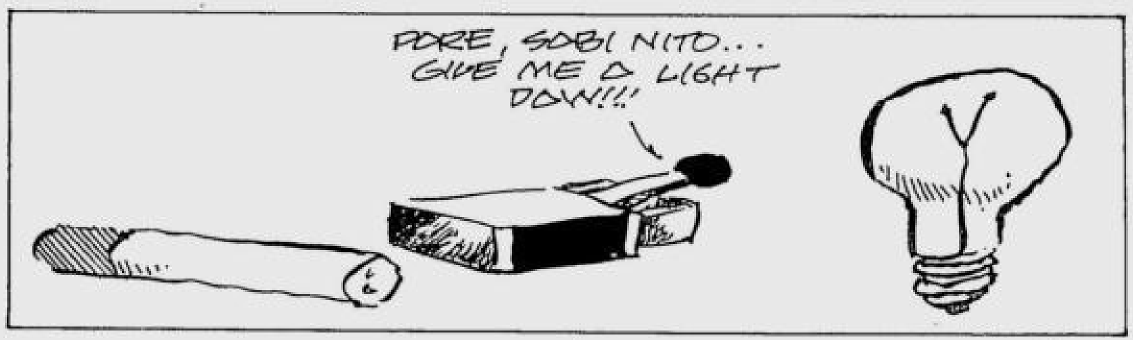
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


uhm.. P-PEDE KO HO BA ITAAS 'YUNG BINTANA?
AY SORI MEN! haha! DEHINS EH YOU KNOW... DAPAT NAKABABA 'YAN! ANO KASI EH... BAKAAAA... MABASAG NITONG POUNDING BOOM-DA-BASS! hehe..
DUGS DUGS DUGS
KUNG 'DI MO NAITA-TANONG, KAYA NGA RIN AKO NAKA-SHADES E DAHIL BAKA MABASAG DIN 'TONG WINDSHIELD KO EH... WAHAHA!
AH! KAYA KA PALA NAKA-SHADES! hehe... AKALA KO MAARAW TALAGA E, TA'S NAG-ECLIPSE LANG. WAHA!
GREAT.
NAG-JOKE DIN LANG NAMAN AKO EH...

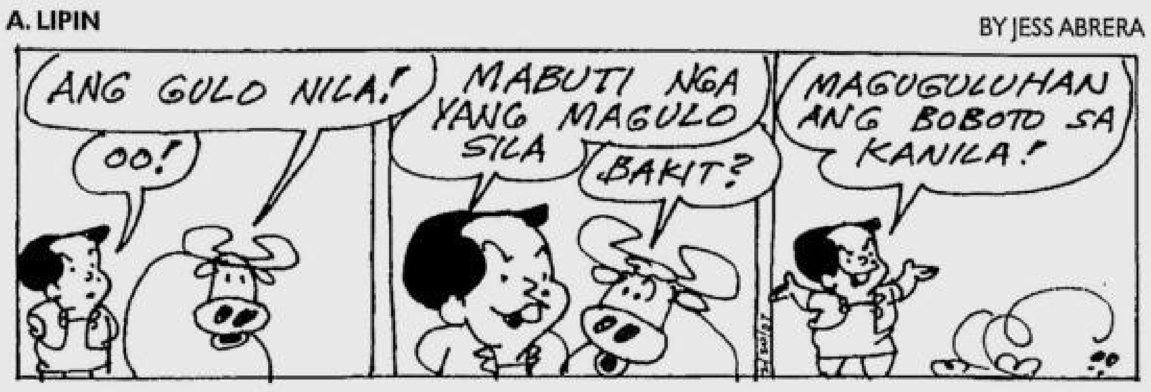
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PARE, SABI NITO... GIVE ME A LIGHT DAW!!!

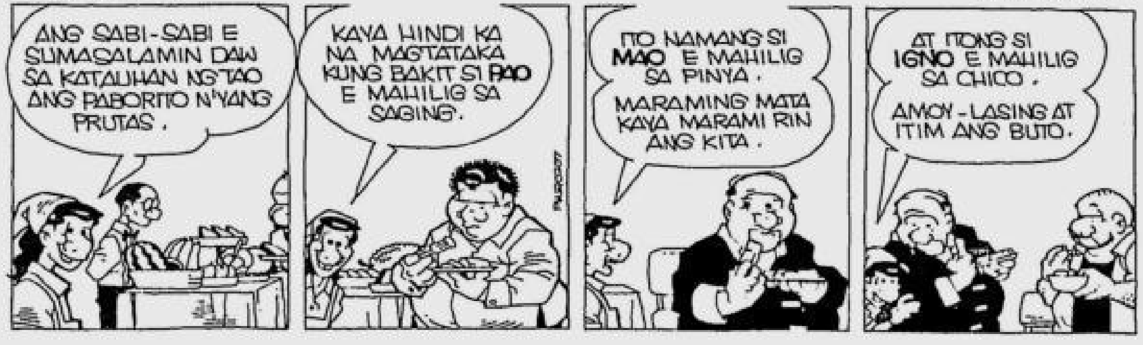
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANG GULO NILA!
OO!
MABUTI NGA YANG MAGULO SILA
BAKIT?
MAGUGULUHAN ANG BOBOTO SA KANILA!

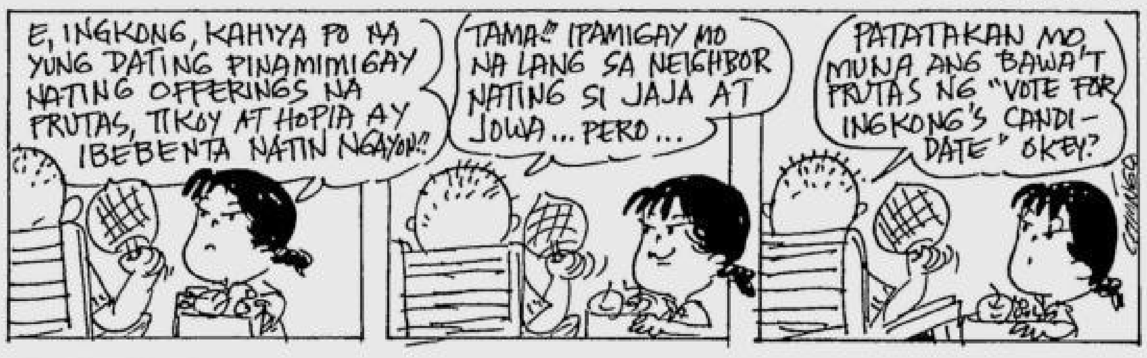
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANG SABI-SABI E SUMASALAMIN DAW SA KATAUHAN NG TAO ANG PABORITO N'YANG PRUTAS.
KAYA HINDI KA NA MAGTATAKA KUNG BAKIT SI PAO E MAHILIG SA SAGING.
ITO NAMANG SI MAO E MAHILIG SA PINYA. MARAMING MATA KAYA MARAMI RIN ANG KITA.
AT ITONG SI IGNO E MAHILIG SA CHICO. AMOY-LASING AT ITIM ANG BUTO.

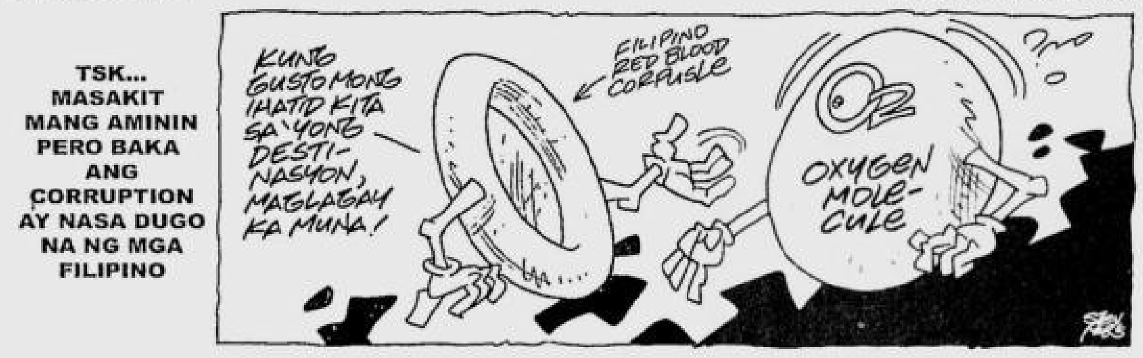
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


E, INGKONG, KAHIYA PO NA YUNG DATING PINAMIMIGAY NATING OFFERINGS NA PRUTAS, TIKOY AT HOPIA AY IBEBENTA NATIN NGAYON?!
TAMA!! IPAMIGAY MO NA LANG SA NEIGHBOR NATING SI JAJA AT JOWA... PERO...
PATATATAKAN MO MUNA ANG BAWA'T PRUTAS NG "VOTE FOR INGKONG'S CANDIDATE" OKEY?

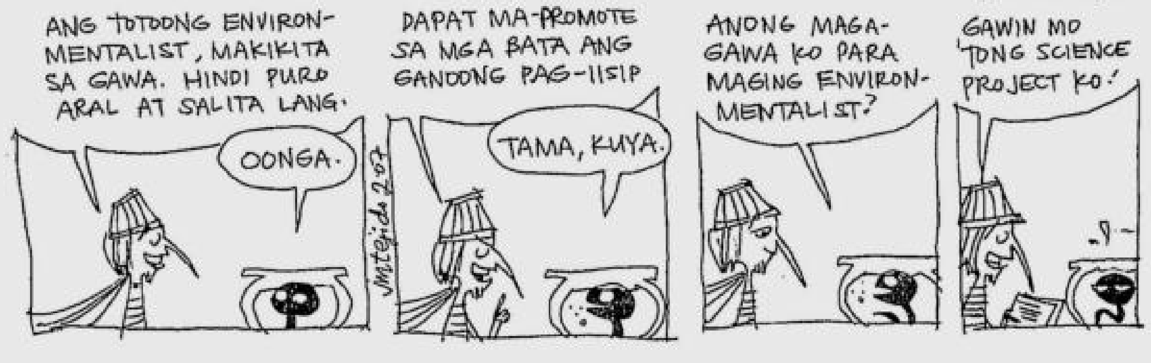
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


TSK... MASAKIT MANG AMININ PERO BAKA ANG CORRUPTION AY NASA DUGO NA NG MGA FILIPINO
KUNG GUSTO MONG IHATID KITA SA 'YONG DESTINASYON, MAGLAGAY KA MUNA!
FILIPINO RED BLOOD CORPUSCLE
OXYGEN MOLECULE
O2

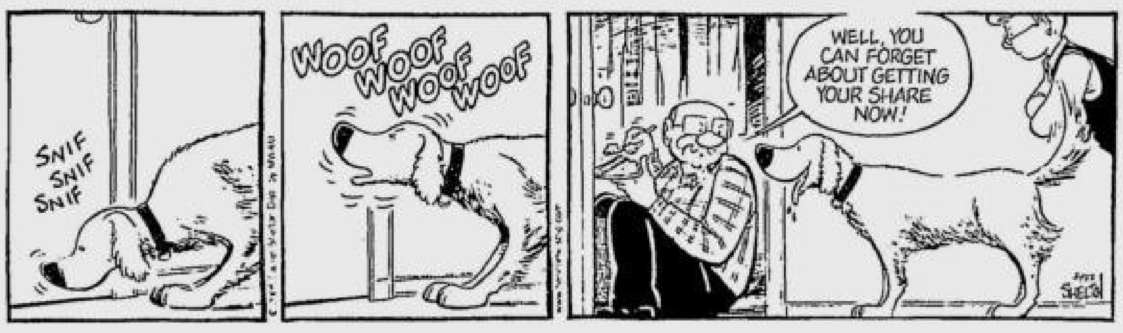
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

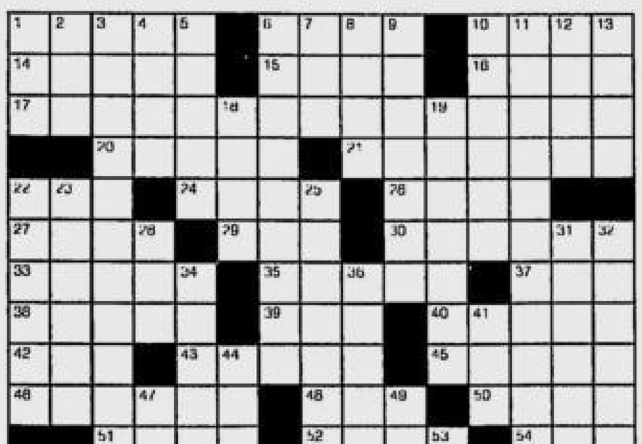

ANG TOTOONG ENVIRONMENTALIST, MAKIKITA SA GAWA. HINDI PURO ARAL AT SALITA LANG.
OONGA.
DAPAT MA-PROMOTE SA MGA BATA ANG GANOONG PAG-IISIP
TAMA, KUYA.
ANONG MAGAGAWA KO PARA MAGING ENVIRONMENTALIST?
GAWIN MO 'TONG SCIENCE PROJECT KO!

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


SNIF SNIF SNIF
WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF
WELL, YOU CAN FORGET ABOUT GETTING YOUR SHARE NOW!

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Verna Suit
Silver Spring, MD

2/20/07

ACROSS

1 "__ la vista, baby!"
6 Bivouac
10 Summit
14 Diarist Nin
15 On the briny
16 Singer Young
17 The three things to hit
20 Soccer passes
21 Golfer Gulbis
22 Dipl. address
24 Opera song
26 Italian seaport
27 Podium
29 Off-road 4-wheeler
30 Gaucho milieu
33 Fem. labor grp.
35 Giggle sound
37 Hit by Ronny & the Daytonas
38 Web places
39 Rock composer Brian
40 Japanese wrap
42 Japanese wrap
43 __-scarum (reckless)
45 Come to a point
46 Volume identifier
48 Some Ga. Tech grads
50 Sported
51 British noble
52 Marquis de __
54 Half of a fly?
55 More clouded with sediment
58 Dey TV series
60 The three things to hit
64 Diner offering
65 __-Carlo Menotti
66 Felt unwell
67 Spoken fanfare
68 In __ (in actual being)
69 Tennis champ Monica

DOWN

1 Uris novel, with "The"
2 Gasteyer of "SNL"
3 The three things to hit
4 Heyerdahl's "Kon-__"
5 Pet protection org.
6 Feline minder
7 Gray shade
8 Nasty
9 Due
10 Turkish capital
11 The three things to hit
12 Longish skirt
13 Other
18 Gumbo veggie
19 Most overused
22 Prolific U.S. inventor
23 California beach
25 Thoroughfares
28 Nor. neighbor
31 Different ones
32 Evening do
34 Greet and seat
36 Macaulay Culkin movie
41 Detroit labor grp.
44 Roone of TV sports
47 "Quantum Leap" star
49 Mt. Rushmore state
53 "__ Dream," Lohengrin aria
55 CEO's job
56 Fertilizer compound
57 Baseball stat
59 Irish Rose's guy
61 PAU's successor
62 Singer Brenda
63 Mormon ltrs.

Monday's Puzzle Solved

C	U	T	E	R	■	S	T	E	E	D	■	G	N	P
E	R	A	T	O	■	I	A	T	R	O	■	R	A	E
L	I	N	C	O	L	N	L	O	G	S	■	A	R	R
L	A	G	■	K	A	E	L	■	S	E	A	N	C	E
S	H	O	O	■	H	A	Y	S	■	R	U	T	■	■
■	■	■	F	O	R	D	H	A	M	■	T	W	A	S
S	E	P	A	L	■	■	O	N	E	T	O	O	N	E
U	S	O	P	E	N	S	■	G	L	O	B	O	S	E
C	A	L	I	G	U	L	A	■	■	R	A	D	A	R
H	I	K	E	■	B	U	S	H	W	A	H	■	■	■
■	■	A	C	T	■	E	T	U	I	■	N	A	S	H
O	H	D	E	A	R	■	A	B	L	Y	■	T	W	A
R	E	O	■	P	I	E	R	C	E	A	R	R	O	W
A	R	T	■	A	O	R	T	A	■	P	A	I	R	S
L	O	S	■	S	T	R	E	P	■	S	H	A	N	E

(C)2007 Tribune Media Services, Inc.
All rights reserved.

2/20/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're skilled at working with others. You can get people to give you their top performance. You also know how to create a good impression on others. You have your own particular style, and it shows in whatever you do. Basically, you know how to inspire others. Work hard in the year ahead to build or construct something.

Birthdate of: Robert Altman, director; Sidney Poitier, actor; Nancy Wilson singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): As much as possible in the next two weeks, try to work behind the scenes or stay in the background. You need some time to ponder and think about where you're headed in the coming year

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Accept all invitations. Get out there and schmooze with others during the next few weeks. Your popularity rating is about to grow, because everybody wants to see your face.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): If others ask you to accept increased responsibilities, do it. VIPs, bosses and parents are impressed with you now. You won't even have to do anything special to fill their requirements. You can do it!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Study, travel and dealings with foreign cultures will definitely appeal to you now and in the next few weeks. You want adventure! You need to get out of Dodge.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your ability to research and look deeply for answers is quite enhanced in the next few weeks. You will treat everything with greater intensity.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): For the next four weeks, the Sun will be directly opposite your sign, drawing your attention to partners and close friends. This gives you a chance to study your style of relating to others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): It's time to get organized both at work and at home. Buy shelving, filing systems, cleaning equipment or paint. Give yourself the right tools to do a good job

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Vacations, parties, social occasions, plus flirtations and love affairs are yours in the next month. Many will be more involved with children than usual as well.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Now your attention turns to home, family and real estate matters. Set aside time for family discussions, as well as improvements to your home

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Fasten your seat belt! The tempo of your days is accelerating. You've got places to go, people to see, things to do.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You can expect to be more focused on money and possessions in the next few weeks. You're thinking about earnings, cash flow and expenditures

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Happy birthday! The Sun is now in your sign for the next four weeks. It's your turn to recharge your batteries for the rest of the year.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

				7				
	8	4				2	9	
	6		1		9		7	
		8		5		4		
6			9		3			5
		9		1		6		
	4		8		6		2	
	1	6				9	5	
				9				

Difficulty Level ★★

2/20

2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	5	8	6	1	2	7	3	4
4	6	2	3	7	5	9	8	1
7	3	1	9	4	8	6	2	5
6	2	7	4	8	1	3	5	9
3	1	4	2	5	9	8	7	6
5	8	9	7	6	3	1	4	2
2	9	6	8	3	4	5	1	7
8	7	5	1	2	6	4	9	3
1	4	3	5	9	7	2	6	8

Difficulty Level ★

2/19

'Ordinary' hero comes to the fore

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AFTER MEL GIBSON SCORED A SIGNIFICANT hit with "The Passion of the Christ," show biz observers wondered what he would do for a follow-up.

Another movie about a great man or woman?

Nah, been there, done that. Gibson, in fact, has gone to the other end of the fame spectrum, and woven the story of his new film, "Apocalypto," around a complete unknown, a young tribesman conscripted as human sacrifice to sustain the beleaguered Mayan empire, many centuries ago.

The point to all this? The protagonist may be obscure, the language he speaks may be "dead," and his drama may have been acted out at what sometimes looks like the very dawn of human civilization, but his key values are essentially the same ones we continue to try to uphold today.

They include love of family, service to community, strength of character, respect for elders and, when push comes to shove, risking everything for the good of others.

That a dim, dark, "uneducated" brave would be able to embody such sterling virtues is the inspiring point of Gibson's film.

This suggests that man has many flaws, but he also has the instinct to be and do good. It is hoped that the lesson is not lost on similarly "ordinary" people today!

As the film unfolds, Jaguar Paw's tribe is shown engaged in completely innocent and clueless pursuits. Clueless, because it isn't aware that, just a jungle away, other tribes are being attacked, decimated and captured for slave labor.

So, when it happens to Jaguar Paw's own tribe, it's woefully unprepared for the vicious onslaught. The protagonist's own pregnant wife and son are left behind to fend for themselves, while he and the other newly-conscripted slaves are dragged off to the Mayan empire, which has seen better times.

In fact, the once high-flying kingdom is reeling from a years-long drought that has sapped its very soul. To appease the god that the Mayans feel is punishing them, they kill one sacrificial victim after another around the clock, tragically to no effect.

But when Jaguar Paw himself is about to be sacrificed, the lessons he's learned well from his father combine with the glorious role that he has been fated to play, and he singlehandedly turns the kingdom on its axis, and comes out triumphant—and alive.

Is that the end to his ordeal? No, he still has to rescue his family from the deep pit in which it's been trapped for weeks. To do so, he has to fight off a horde of angry pursuers.

It's a completely mismatched battle, but Jaguar Paw is able to draw from his mastery of jungle and turn it to his advantage. Once

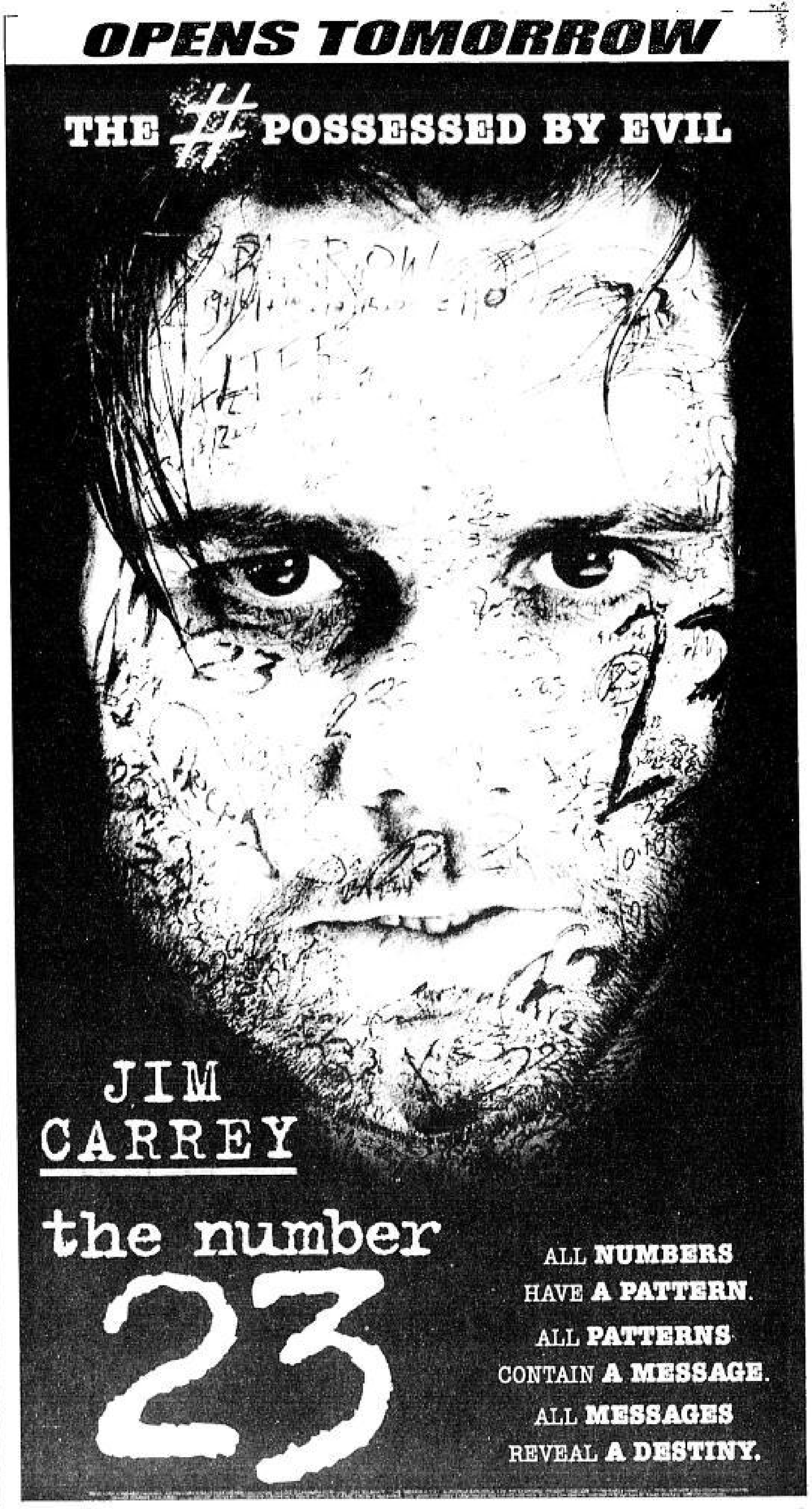
ORDINARY/ D2

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER **R13** 12:40,3:05,5:30,7:55	**THE HOLIDAY** **PG13** 1:30,4:20,7:10,10:00	**MUSIC AND LYRICS** **PG13** 12:50,3:15,5:40, 8:05,10:30
GHOST RIDER **PG13** 1:00,3:30,6:00,8:30	**THE FOUNTAIN** **PG13** 1:45,3:55,6:05,8:15	**GHOST RIDER** **PG13** 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-1440/41
MATINNEE 110.00 FREE SEATING SCREENING BEFORE 5:00P.M. – MONDAY-FRIDAY

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
NO. 1 IN THE U.S.
NO. 1 IN THE PHILIPPINES!
They say children see what adults do not.
But no one listens. No one believes.
Now, no one will live.
SAM RAIMI
THE DIRECTOR OF SPIDERMAN 1, 2 & 3
& PRODUCER OF THE GRUDGE SERIES
presents
THE MESSENGERS
NOW SHOWING


OPENS TOMORROW
THE # POSSESSED BY EVIL
JIM CARREY
the number 23
ALL NUMBERS HAVE A PATTERN.
ALL PATTERNS CONTAIN A MESSAGE.
ALL MESSAGES REVEAL A DESTINY.

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS
Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777

G1	GLORIETTA 1	1 MUSIC & LYRICS	2 GHOST RIDER	3 THE FOUNTAIN	4 THE PROMISE		
G4	GLORIETTA 4	1 THE FOUNTAIN	2 GHOST RIDER	3 THX GHOST RIDER GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE HISTORY BOYS	5 THE MESSENGERS	6 MUSIC & LYRICS
		7 THE PROMISE					
GB1	GREENBELT 1	1 GHOST RIDER	2 MUSIC & LYRICS				
GB3	GREENBELT 3	1 THX GHOST RIDER GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX MUSIC & LYRICS GUARANTEED SEATS	3 THE HISTORY BOYS GUARANTEED SEATS	4 GHOST RIDER GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE FOUNTAIN GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX GHOST RIDER GUARANTEED SEATS	2 MUSIC & LYRICS	3 THE FOUNTAIN	4 THE HOLIDAY	5 THE PROMISE	
ACC	AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 GHOST RIDER	2 MUSIC & LYRICS	3 THE PROMISE	4 THE MESSENGERS		
M2	MARKET! MARKET!	1 THE PROMISE	2 THE FOUNTAIN	3 THE MESSENGERS	4 GHOST RIDER	5 MUSIC & LYRICS	

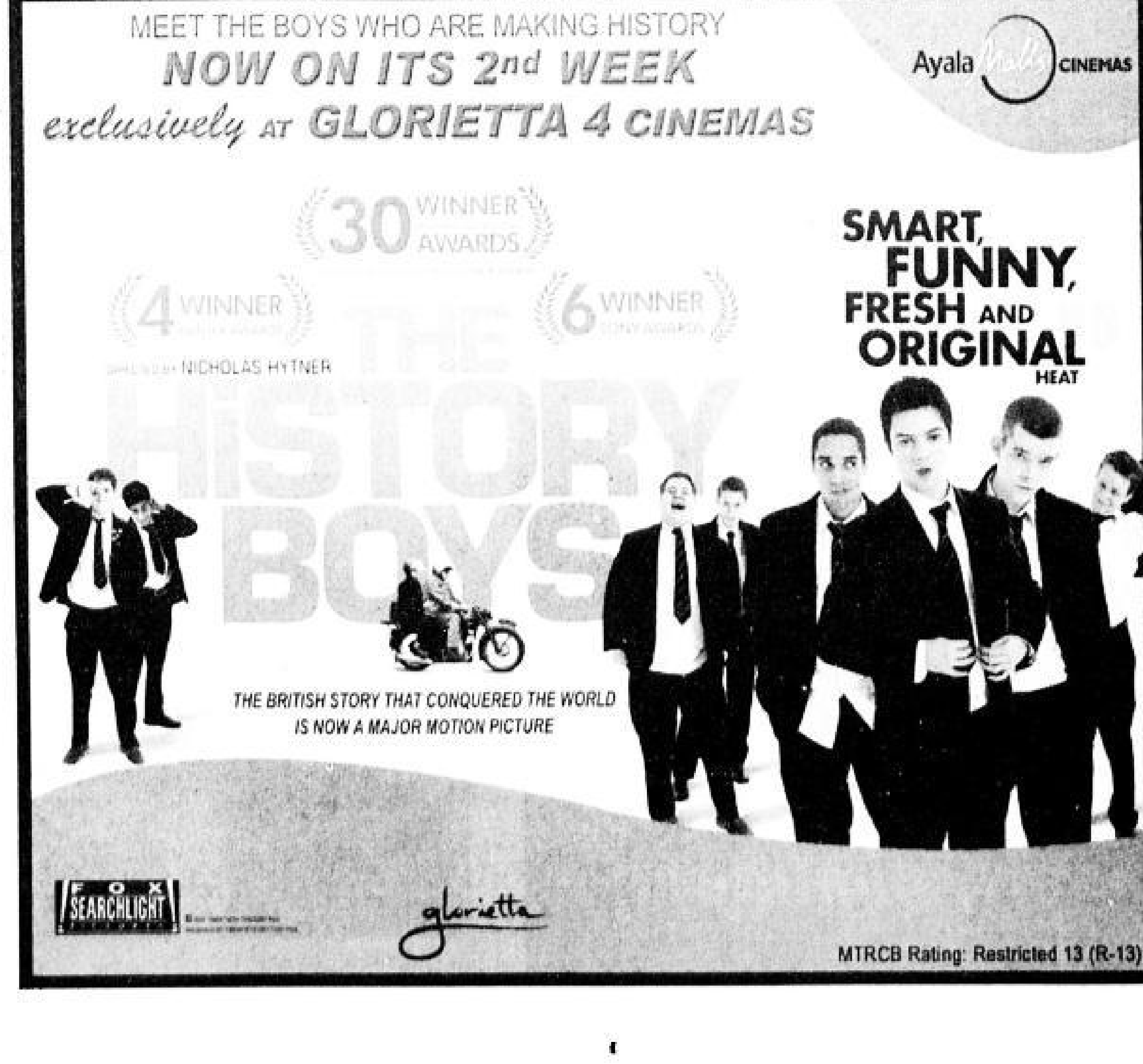
At the Activity Center
Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272: from 10am to 9pm
Greenbelt - 757 4853: from 11am to 9pm
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782: from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
YOU GOT ME movie promo tour feat. Sam Milby, Toni Gonzaga, Zanjo Marudo & other guest stars February 16, 2007	Auto Focus '07 People's Choice Awards February 17, 2007
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Microsoft Vista Launching February 16, 2007	The Philippine International Jazz & Arts Festival February 20, 2007

GREENBELT — Greenbelt 5 Sneak Peak presents: Collection of Ana Rocha
February 7 to 18, 2007

Greenbelt Onstage — Repertory Philippines presents SONG & DANCE
at REP's Globe Theater - February 9 to March 4, 2007
For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM — CHINESE DIASPORA: Art Streams from the Mainland (six shows)
February 15 to March 27, 2007
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org


MEET THE BOYS WHO ARE MAKING HISTORY
NOW ON ITS 2nd WEEK
exclusively AT GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS
Ayala Malls CINEMAS
30 WINNER AWARDS
4 WINNER
6 WINNER
NICHOLAS HYTNER
THE HISTORY BOYS
SMART, FUNNY, FRESH AND ORIGINAL
HEAT
THE BRITISH STORY THAT CONQUERED THE WORLD IS NOW A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE
FOX SEARCHLIGHT
glorietta
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

Ayala Malls
Philippine International
Jazz & Arts Festival
at Ayala Malls

GLORIETTA
February 15, 2007
Glorietta Activity Center
5pm

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
February 18, 2007
Town Plaza
5pm

SERENDRA
February 16, 2007
Fountain Area
8pm

MARKET! MARKET!
February 20, 2007
Activity Center
4pm

BONIFACIO HIGH STREET
February 16, 2007
9th Avenue
8pm

GREENBELT
February 22, 2007
Greenbelt 3 Park
8pm

glorietta GREENBELT TOWN MARKET! MARKET!
www.ayalamalls.com.ph

Can't imagine herself as anything but a mom

RUSHES

FORMER TEEN IDOL MANILYN REYNES says she can no longer imagine herself not being a mom.

MANILYN REYNES

The mother of Kyle, 10, and Kirk, 4, Reynes feels her children have made her complete.

"It's very different from my former life," she says. "Being a mother has made me feel like I'm a real woman."

Reynes, 35, is married to former actor Aljon Jimenez, who has also dropped out of show biz. He is now directing and editing audiovisual presentations, Reynes says.

"Every time I give birth, I take time off to raise my child," says the actress. "I can't depend on a nanny—though I have nothing against mothers who have nannies."

Reynes is one of the co-hosts of the talk show "Moms," on QTV11, but she says she will give up her career anytime for her children's sake.

Meanwhile, she is relishing her job on the show: "My first love is singing, but hosting is a different challenge. I have bigger responsibilities ... I have a more mature audience, I can't just play around. I also learn a lot."

To mothers like herself, Reynes has this advice: "Nobody's perfect when it comes to motherhood." *Nini Valera*

Jamie Foxx sued

LOS ANGELES—A celebrity stylist has sued Jamie Foxx, claiming the actor failed to pay for work she did in dressing him for an awards show and press junkets for his film "Miami Vice."

In a lawsuit filed Wednesday in Superior Court, stylist Stacy Young accused Foxx, Foxxhole Records and 25 unnamed defendants of breaking two oral agreements.

JEMIMA Khan and Hugh Grant AP

JAMIE FOXX REUTERS

Young was hired to work as Foxx's stylist in June 2006 for the Black Entertainment Television Awards, according to the lawsuit. She was to have been paid $2,850 a day; but they failed to pay her in full.

Again, in July 2006, Foxx and other defendants hired Young to dress him for press junkets to promote his role in the undercover cop film "Miami Vice," according to court papers.

They agreed to pay Young $3,000 a day, and again failed to pay her in full, the lawsuit claims. *AP*

Hugh Grant, GF split

LOS ANGELES—Actor Hugh Grant and his British society girlfriend Jemima Khan have ended their relationship, Grant's publicist said on Friday.

"Hugh and Jemima have decided to split amicably," publicist Robert Garlock said, confirming the first report by People Magazine. *Reuters*

Nicole Richie charged

LOS ANGELES—US reality TV star Nicole Richie was charged on Friday with driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, two months after police arrested her and said she was driving the wrong way on a Los Angeles freeway.

The 25-year-old daughter of singer Lionel Richie was scheduled for an arraignment on the misdemeanor charge. *Reuters*

NICOLE RICHIE REUTERS

For real, yo!

Eminem's ex-wife says this time it's really over. Kim Mathers, the ex-wife of Eminem, says her on-again, off-again relationship with the Grammy-winning rapper is over and done.

"I never spoke up about it before because I always felt something for him," Mathers told Detroit radio station WKQI-FM in a live interview on Friday. "Now I have vomit in my mouth if I'm around him or hear his name. There's nothing left in me for him. Nothing." *Reuters*

SPIN CITY

Classic love songs

"JUST A LOVE SONG ... CHRISTIAN Bautista Live!" contains 19 tracks of classic love song covers including the carrier track "Trying to Get the Feeling Again," popularized by Barry Manilow.

The album was recorded before an all-female audience at Teatrino, Promenade, Greenhills. A five-piece band, a five-piece strings section, and a grand concert piano accompanied Christian during the recording, now available on CD.

Among the songs are "Only Reminds Me of You," "Beautiful in My Eyes," "Make It with You," "Got to Believe in Magic" "Fixing a Broken Heart," "Could Not Ask for More," "Of All the Things" and "Nothing Can Stop Us Now."

CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA

A major live concert featuring Christian is slated on April 28 at the Big Dome.

Worship album

Songwriter Reuben Morgan has released his new album, "Everyone," which contains songs for individual and group worship.

It carries classics like "Eagle's Wings" and "Still" and worship songs like "Mighty to Save," "Let Creation Sing," "Emmanuel" and "All For You."

The album is available in House of Praise outlets.

REUBEN MORGAN

May original na kanta ka ba para sa PCSO?

PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE
Join na sa
tongkantangto
BAND SEARCH

Young and aspiring bands with original song compositions na akma sa PCSO theme na "Pagkakaisa sa Kawanggawa" ay pwedeng sumali!

Mechanics
1. The search is open to amateur bands only who have not signed up with any recording studio.
2. The band should submit an original full song composition highlighting PCSO's theme "Unity in Charity". The song should be editable to 30 and 60 seconds.
3. All entries must be submitted personally by any of the band member's representative, together with the duly filled-up application form, demo cd, and members' profile.

Submit to:
Philippine Information Agency
"Tongkantangto" Band Search
PIA Building, Visayas Avenue,
Quezon City

4. From the entries gathered PIA will make a shortlist of entries submitted and will be forwarded to PCSO final selection.
5. Quarterly qualifiers shall receive P100,000 cash prize plus P30,000 cash per participation in PCSO roadshows, for a maximum cash remuneration of P250,000!
6. Quarterly qualifiers shall also be entitled to maximum television, radio and print exposure by way of PCSO infomercials!
7. Only one band shall be selected per quarter.
8. The selected song shall be packaged for radio and tv infomercials of PCSO.
9. Shortlisted entries shall be considered for the next quarter's selection.
10. Deadline of submission of entries are as follows:
Second quarter March 15, 2007
Third quarter June 15, 2007
Fourth quarter September 30, 2007

Get your entry forms at PIA Building, Visayas Ave. or log on to www.pcso.gov.ph

Hanggang P250,000 para sa quarterly qualifiers!